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Why do Americans hate the British?

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## SIMON JENKINS

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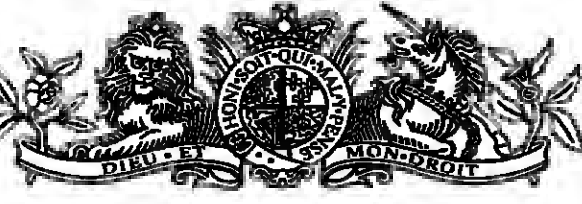
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## THE TIMES



No. 64,731

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25 1993

45p

## Portillo defies Right with tax rise warning

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JANET BUSH

MICHAEL Portillo today gives the most explicit warning yet that taxes may have to rise in the November Budget. He says the government's spending policy is tougher than ever it was under Margaret Thatcher — but even that may not be enough to cut the public deficit fast enough.

The key intervention by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, in an article in *The Times* today, comes just as some Conservatives are claiming that threats of higher taxes are holding back consumer confidence. They want tax increases to be ruled out and a two-point cut in interest rates to boost the recovery.

With the Tory dispute over budget priorities gathering pace, Mr Portillo says in his article that reversing trends in public spending may take some years, while the government

needed to reduce its borrowing fairly quickly. "The Chancellor may judge in November that borrowing is not being cut fast enough," he says, and revenue raising measures cannot be ruled out.

The clear warning of possible tax increases is underpinned by Mr Portillo's decision to respond to the Tory right, who regard him as a potential party leader. Evidently sensitive to their charges that he is not being tough enough, Mr Portillo says the government's decision effectively to freeze spending this year and next is "tougher than Mrs Thatcher's record during the 1980s". There is nothing "new" about the present spending target, he adds.

"We must be robust in constraining public spending, but even so we cannot rule out revenue-raising measures," he says. Failure to take timely action to reduce borrowing could lead quickly to a permanent increase

in national indebtedness that could only be addressed by permanently higher taxes.

Mr Portillo says that Conservatives raise taxes "only with the greatest reluctance", but he appears to underline the limitations of what can be achieved by cutting spending. He says the target set by the government for the coming years "reflects what is feasible first in terms of public acceptability and second in terms of parliamentary time", and adds that most reductions in spending require altering policies — which means legislation.

Mr Portillo's remarks coincide by another salvo from the right — this time from Nicholas Winter, chairman of the Manufacturing and Construction Industries Alliance, which is made up of MPs, unions and companies. Mr Winter, who complained that the threat of higher taxes was retarding consumer spend-

ing and confidence and seriously damaging recovery in the housing market.

In the group's first six-monthly statement, he says: "There must be no further tax increases. All they do is take spending power out of the domestic economy, stifle confidence and kill off job prospects."

But as Mr Winter's group criticised the government for failing to build on early signs of recovery, other reports yesterday indicated that both consumer and business confidence were beginning to grow.

The latest Gallup survey of consumer confidence showed that optimism about the recovery improved sharply between July and August, which the pollsters put down to receding fear about jobs. Further surveys of small businesses, firms managed by their owners and industrial companies also suggested that many more firms are now expecting

to take on staff over the next year, reflecting healthier demand and a revival in consumer confidence.

Adding to the more positive tone was news yesterday from accountants KPMG Peat Marwick yesterday of sharp falls in the number of company insolvencies and personal bankruptcies between the first and second quarters of the year. Company liquidations dropped by 10.5 per cent and individual bankruptcies by 21.5 per cent.

Tim Hayward, head of corporate recovery at KPMG, said: "The dramatic decrease in the level of bankruptcies indicates that there has been a start to the return of consumer confidence and this is likely to continue in the current climate of lower interest rates."

Michael Portillo, page 14  
Letters, page 15  
Signs of optimism, page 21

## TODAY

## IN THE TIMES

## Degree Vacancy Service



● Don't panic! That's the message to the 150,000 people still looking for a degree course. Those who keep a clear head may win a place despite poor A-level results.

● Today *The Times* begins the most regular, up-to-date vacancy information service available. The daily subject-by-subject service starts by concentrating on the scarce places in arts, social sciences and business studies.

● Tomorrow the spotlight will fall on the sciences, including the popular health studies courses. On Friday, it is the turn of engineering and technology. The service will rotate between these areas throughout the four weeks of clearing and will include advice for aspiring students.

● Courses have been filling up at an unprecedented rate, and competition in clearing is expected to be the fiercest yet, especially on the arts side. Early information will be at a premium. *The Times* hopes to offer its readers the best chance of a degree course place this autumn.

The Times Degree Vacancies Service: pages 34 and 35

## Saddam envoys escape 'tyranny'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT AND HAZHIR TEIMOURIAN

TWO veteran Iraqi ambassadors who have defected to Britain vowed yesterday to fight for the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein — and said they had taken nearly £250,000 from an embassy safe to help the cause.

Now senior British diplomats believe their dramatic move could have a domino effect: the defection of two such prominent men could lead Saddam to recall other ambassadors whose loyalty was in doubt. Those envoys might, in turn, choose to demonstrate their anger over the destruction of their country.

The arrival in London of Hisham al-Shawi and Hamed al-Jubouri is an important coup for the Iraqi National Congress, Saddam's main opponents in exile, which organised the double defection. The two diplomats were senior members of Iraq's Sunni Muslim political establishment and had been both ambassadors and ministers. Mr al-Shawi had served in Saddam's presidential office.

Neither envoy appeared to have brought briefcases stuffed with intelligence material that could be useful in tracing Saddam's arms supply networks, but the Foreign Office and MI6 will still want to talk to them. They will also keep a watch to see if other Iraqi defectors spurs to seek asylum.

Mr al-Shawi, who was ambassador in Ottawa, has his wife and daughter with him and Mr al-Jubouri, who was

the ambassador in Tunis, also has close family here. They did not fear reprisals against other relatives left behind, but accepted that their own lives would be in danger. The timing of the two defections was no coincidence: the two, who both retired last week, have been firm friends since their schooldays.

Baghdad tried to play down the betrayal, saying both diplomats had retired weeks ago, but their defection could have a more lasting impact than Iraqi officials cared to admit, especially in the light of a reported purge against leading Sunni officials and military officers in Iraq.

Asked at a press conference yesterday if other Iraqi ambassadors might follow their example and defect, Mr al-Shawi said he did not know, but added: "They will see me on television and hopefully they will join us."

Mr al-Shawi, an Oxford graduate who had also served as justice minister and as an envoy to London, admitted that he had emptied the Otta-



Hamed al-Jubouri, left, and Hisham al-Shawi, the Iraqi ambassadors who fled the Saddam regime, at yesterday's London press conference

wa embassy safe, fearing misuse of funds that belonged to the Iraqi people. "I considered it my responsibility to ensure that they are not used to further sustain a regime that has treated its people so vilely," he said. The money — \$155,950.10 in American currency and \$273,530 in Canadian banknotes — was to be placed in a trust fund and would be returned once "the age of tyranny has passed".

Mr al-Shawi went on to explain why he remained loyal to Saddam after the invasion

of Kuwait and why he had now decided to defect. "When the disastrous aggression against Kuwait occurred and the very existence of Iraq was in danger, duty and my nature compelled me to stand fast at my post despite my awareness of the magnitude of the recklessness of the coup," he said.

Thousands of Iraqis had hoped the regime "would learn, retreat and take the initiative to rectify matters. But the fleeing dream was soon dispelled and it was clear that the present regime in Iraq

admits no mistake and feels no responsibility. It has no other objective but the maintenance of its tyrannical power, notwithstanding defeat, disgrace and total ruin."

"Now my sense of duty dictates confrontation and open challenge if the situation is to be resolved before everything is lost. Proud Iraq has receded into a darkness unknown to it since the days of the Monarchs. The state has become a vast police network with no other task but to ensure the security of the

ruling clique and to keep it in power."

Mr al-Jubouri said that Saddam's regime had dragged Iraq into two destructive wars. "In record time, in what seemed like a frightening nightmare, it destroyed a once strong and prosperous country, leaving it morally and financially bankrupt, isolated from its people, its Arab neighbours and the international community."

Saddam's grip, page 10  
Leading article, page 15

## Universities drop out of arts clearing

By JOHN O'LEARY AND BEN PRESTON

A DRAMATIC decline in vacancies on degree courses in the arts and social sciences is confirmed in today's first survey by *The Times* of this autumn's higher education opportunities.

Several universities and colleges will be absent for the first time from the clearing process, which tries to match disappointed candidates with remaining vacancies. Others have places only in science, engineering and technology.

Admissions officers expect a scramble for the courses listed for clearing today. In the 22 most popular arts subjects, only 236 of the 2,000 single honours degrees running in the new academic year still had vacancies yesterday. Jeff Enderby, the head of information for the Universities Central Council on Admissions, said there would be 500 more courses available in clearing than last year, but there

Continued on page 2 of 8  
Juggling course, page 4  
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## UN calls for airdrops as Croats turn back convoy

TENS of thousands of starving and desperate Muslim civilians in the city of Mostar last night placed their faith in American airdrops of aid after United Nations efforts to relieve their two-month ordeal ground to a halt.

With little food, almost no medicine, and water available only from the grimy banks of the Neretva, as many as 55,000 trapped Muslims are in imminent danger of starvation and ultimate annihilation by the Croat stranglehold around the city.

The UN yesterday asked Western allies to begin parachuting in food and medicine. Sylvana Fox, spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the organisation had asked Britain, France, Germany and the United States to carry out the airdrops after the Croat militia blocked a land convoy to Mostar earlier in the day. US Air Force Hercules transport aircraft, were due last night to deliver the town's first tonne of humanitarian supplies in two months, giving the encircled Muslims a badly needed morale boost.

What the population really



With Croats holding up Mostar aid with political demands, relief must come from the sky, Richard Beeston writes from Medugorje

needed was stranded here, in 19 UN lorries laden with food and medicines and only 15 miles south of Mostar. It is being prevented from reaching the Muslims by the Bosnian Croats, who are using the aid as a hostage for their political ambitions.

The convoy, consisting of three British Overseas Development Administration lorries and 16 Belgian military trucks, will again this morning try to brave sniper fire and shelling by crossing the line into eastern Mostar.

Foreign aid workers in the area reported that the Croats' decision to halt the convoy coincided with a fresh offensive by militia men who pounded the historic Ottoman centre of the city with heavy artillery and engaged in fierce gun battles with Muslim fighters north of Mostar. Several people were reportedly killed yesterday, two of them

civilians in an ambulance that took a direct hit from Croat positions and others picked off by snipers as they tried to collect water from the river banks.

Among the Croats' demands was the supply of aid to the Croat-dominated western half of Mostar, the return for burial of Croat dead held by Muslims, and the release of up to 100 wounded Croat soldiers from the Nova Bila hospital in central Bosnia which is surrounded by Muslim forces.

The Bosnian Croats, who have suffered a series of battlefield defeats at the hands of Muslim forces over the past weeks, control all access from the worst affected areas of central Bosnia to the sea, where international aid is delivered by ship.

UN envoy, page 9  
Letters, page 15

## Mothers' Union blow to family

By RUTH GLEDHILL

TRADITIONAL family life has been dealt another blow by the Mothers' Union, which recently debated prostitution and the legalisation of brothels.

In the union's journal, *Home & Family*, published yesterday, a senior member criticises the "inflated importance" given to the family which, she says, can in fact be stifling, secretive and imprisoning. The article provoked immediate criticism from traditionalists, who accused the union of attacking the values it was intended to uphold.

In the journal, Christine McMullen, a former central vice-president, says that the nuclear family of mother, father and children is not a blueprint with divine endorsement. She adds that many biblical families had love, hate, incest, prostitution, jealousy, theft and disbelief in them, and yet God still loved them.

She recommended instead a reversion to the Old Testament model of large collections of families in a clan or household.

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# Crewman on Liberator bomber recalls attack as U-boat fights to stay beneath the waves

## Recovery of U534 evokes horror of deadly mission

By RICHARD F. AND CHRISTOPHER POLLETT

ATTEMPTS to complete the lifting of a German U-boat from the sea off Denmark were delayed yesterday by the weight of mud and the weight of the inner hull wedged between its inner and outer hulls.

The Dutch salvage team working off the Danish coast of Anholt tried to on to a world war submarine so that the submarine could be examined by the crew. The U-boat was the last of its kind. The U-boat was the last of its kind.

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U534 photographed by the RAF Liberator bomber just before it was sunk by depth charges off Anholt island on May 5, 1945

## Bomber struck as curtain fell on war in Europe

By ALAN HAMILTON

TO DEFINE to the minute when the 'Thousand-Year Reich' collapsed is a matter of debate, but as good a moment as any is 8am on May 5, 1945, a few hours before U534 was sunk.

It was a Saturday, the last weekend of the war in Europe. The previous Monday Hitler had committed suicide in his bunker, leaving command of his collapsing army to Admiral Doenitz, a man captured by the Allies in the last days of the Great War and sent to Manchester Asylum, having been certified insane by his captors.

At 6.25pm on the previous day General Kintzel and Admiral von Friedeburg had presented themselves at General Montgomery's tent on Lüneburg Heath, not far from the Danish border, and signed the unconditional surrender of the German army in northwest Europe. But the silencing of the guns brought

only confusion and panic among the defeated.

Doenitz, faced with the awful reality, signalled to the German navy that there was to be no scuttling of the fleet. The navy, and especially the U-boat fleet which had sunk 2,800 Allied merchantmen and 148 warships, had other ideas. The first week of May, against all orders, 231 U-boats scuttled themselves rather than surrender. Others contemplated escape. U534 was of an ocean-going class that might have found a haven on some friendly far-flung shore. She slipped out of the Kattegat for days after the surrender the RAF patrolled the Baltic coasts, picking off would-be fugitives.

Denmark had become the focus of Churchill's attention after he divined Stalin's intention of enslaving a defeated Europe and had received intelligence reports of Soviet



Cledwyn Williams and the crew of the Liberator which sunk U534

paratroopers landing in Jutland. On the day U534 was sunk SS guards at Ebensee in Austria attempted to herd several thousand Jewish prisoners into a tunnel, telling them they were being protected

from Allied bombing but in truth intending to kill them. Both prisoners and guards knew the end of battle was near. The prisoners refused to move. The guards, aware of the threat of war crimes tribunals, capitulated.

At about 8am on May 5, when captors and captured hung equal in the scales of fate, three young, emaciated and starving Jewish boys set on the chief guard and, with skeletal limbs, beat him to death. The Reich had fallen.



Williams lost close friend in the attack

Flying Cross and gave a certificate to each member of the crew to mark their part in the sinking.

Mr Williams married his wife Geraldine a few weeks before the sinking and has five sons and nine grandchildren. After the war he worked in electronics development with Plessey and Marconi. He has been too ill to attend the lifting operation by Smit Tak, the Dutch marine salvage team.

The next step for the salvors is to empty the submarine of diesel. Its hatches have been opened and, once emptied of

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Revival of inner cities hampered by delays

Schemes to revitalise inner cities, pioneered by Margaret Thatcher and Michael Heseltine, have been held up by unnecessary delays and inaccurate spending forecasts, according to a report by the National Audit Office.

The NAO examination of eight urban development corporations, which have spent more than £750 million on improving areas in industrial and economic decline, accuses them of providing inconsistent, unreliable and vague details of their work. It says the corporations overall have made "substantial progress", but more than half the large projects examined had been delayed by an average of two years.

## Secrecy 'excessive'

Demands for greater access to government records were rejected yesterday by William Waldegrave, the public service minister, although he said that Britain remained too secretive about official papers. He told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that there were practical reasons against American-style rights to examine official files.

## Farm unrest warning

Farm workers will be forced to take industrial action if the Agricultural Wages Board is abolished, Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, said yesterday. The board, which fixes minimum pay, is being reviewed by the government. Mr Morris said farmworkers would have to become "slave labour or industrial fighters".

## Lagos killing 'a mystery'

The assassin who shot a British export consultant in a Nigerian hotel room in July 1991 may never be traced, an inquest was told yesterday. David Rollings, 61, was shot while on a business trip to Lagos. Paul Forrest, Avon coroner, read a report from police and said: "It would appear it is still a mystery as to why the deceased was killed."

## Anger as IRA prisoner gets leave

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE IRA prisoner who orchestrated the 1981 hunger strike was released from the Maze prison yesterday for a week's summer home leave.

Brendan McFarlane, 42, who also led the break out of 38 prisoners from the Maze in 1983, walked free to protests from Unionist MPs who accused the Northern Ireland Office of going soft on terrorism.

McFarlane was sentenced in 1976 to five life terms for the 1975 bombing of a Belfast bar which killed five Protestants. He was recently taken off the list of top-risk prisoners.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, condemned the home leave. "This would appear to be folly which will undermine the public's

confidence in the administration of justice," he said. "Releasing a convicted multiple killer and jailbreaker hands a propaganda victory to the IRA."

McFarlane was allowed home under a parole scheme



McFarlane killed five in Belfast bar bombing

for inmates who are serving sentences with no release date. Such prisoners can apply for leave at Christmas and over the summer after 11 years in prison.

Seamus Mallon, MP for Newry and Armagh and the deputy leader of the SDLP, defended the scheme. "I am very much in favour of the parole system which prepares inmates for their return to life outside," he said. "It has been very successful because there is a remarkably low degree of regression to paramilitary action."

Terrorist prisoners in Northern Ireland serve shorter sentences than inmates on the mainland because the Home Office believes they may have been swayed into paramilitary organisations at a young age. The home leave scheme is de-

signed to undermine paramilitaries by reintroducing former terrorists into the community whose sobering experience in prison should deter youngsters from following their example.

The Northern Ireland Office said that no prisoner in the scheme had reoffended during home leave. A spokesman said: "We have been allowing out prisoners serving indeterminate sentences since the Christmas of 1986 and nobody has ever dishonoured the rules. The 20 top risk prisoners in the province are never allowed out."

The spokesman rejected allegations that convicted terrorists were a danger to society out of prison. He added: "Once they have served time they are a liability to the paramilitary organisations and most just melt away."

## Toll drivers face speeding surcharge

By TIM JONES  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MOTORWAY drivers could face instant speed surcharges of up to £300 under proposals which would charge motorists 50 pence for every mile of their journey over which they exceed the 70mph speed limit.

Under the plan, a motorist travelling the 400 miles from London to Glasgow at a constant 75mph would face a £200 charge after identification by roadside electronic devices. The plan is being considered by Robert Key, the roads

minister, but his department conceded that it may be some years away as the technology to enforce it does not yet exist.

Last night, the proposal was dismissed by the Automobile Association as a "charter for the law-breaking rich" while the Royal Automobile Club said efforts should be concentrated instead on making other roads safer.

Mr Key's determination to act has been influenced by the constant flouting of motorway speed limits and the increased performance of family saloons, which are capable of cruising at more than 100mph. A similar system is in place in France,

where motorists buy a ticket at one toll booth which is checked against time and distance when it is surrendered at the next and police are pressing for it to be used in prosecutions.

In Britain, John MacGregor, the transport secretary, has ruled out motorway toll booths but is determined to charge the country's 24 million motorists for using the 1,400-mile motorway network. He is believed to favour an electronic tagging system by which drivers who use a motorway would be charged about 1.5p a mile, with lorries having to pay up in 4.5p

## Kidnapped student tells of gun battle

By JAMES LANDALE

ONE of the two British students kidnapped by Kurdish rebels in Turkey said yesterday that she was relieved and happy to be alive. Anna Young, 22, and Michael Paterson, 21, were freed on Monday after Turkish soldiers shot eight of their captors.

They were seized by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) at a checkpoint near Kozluk while on a bus between the eastern city of Van and the port of Mersin.

Miss Young, from Axminster, Devon, told ITN news: "We were on the bus. Then we were taken off at night and held in the mountains by quite a lot of terrorists. The next day, we managed to get out in the shooting. There was lots of shooting."

She said: "We are relieved, happy to be alive." The Britons and four Afghan passengers were held for about 12 hours before being freed.

Anna's father, Anthony Young, 63, said: "Her intention was not to go too far into the dangerous area but obviously she did."

A Foreign Office spokesman said the pair were making their way to the British Embassy in Ankara and hoped to fly home today or tomorrow.

## University arts courses missed out of clearing

Continued from page 1 would be fewer arts and social science vacancies. "There will be some nice surprises for a few early risers, but we will have no law courses and other traditionally popular subjects are bound to go quickly."

Fewer than 38,000 of the expected 265,000 university and college places remained vacant yesterday. The Polytechnics and College Admissions Service said with just 15,000 places unfilled, there were more than 55,000 applications under consideration and a further 106,500 eligible to enter the clearing system.

More than 106,000 applications had been rejected, compared with 93,000 this time last year. Mike Scott, the deputy chief executive of service, said staff were making decisions more quickly with less room for manoeuvre.

The first listing of arts, business and social science degree courses appears in The Times today. The daily service will move on to science courses tomorrow, with engineering and technology vacancies appearing on Friday. The service will continue throughout the four weeks of clearing.

Juggling course, page 4  
Leading article, page 15  
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## Woman's body found in armchair

## Elderly brother and sister discovered murdered at home

BY LIN JENKINS

A DEVOTED brother and sister who drove off an intruder recently were found murdered in the flat where they had lived for 46 years.

William Bryan, 71, and Anne Castle, 74, were discovered by police after neighbours raised the alarm on Monday. They became concerned when nobody answered the doorbell even though a light was on and the balcony door was open.

Mr Bryan, who was invalided out of the services during the second world war, was found gagged and with his hands and feet bound on the floor of the flat in Bethnal Green, east London. His sister was sitting in an armchair.

Scotland Yard said last night that Mr Bryan had died from asphyxiation and that both he and Mrs Castle had suffered from heart disease.

A spokesman said it was believed that Mr Bryan's suffocation was caused by a hand being placed over his mouth. "Both deaths are being treated as murder as whatever occurred prior to the deaths contributed to the heart disease," he said.

Officers were keeping an open mind on the time of the death, although it was likely that whatever took place had ended when a neighbour noticed a light in the flat at 4am.

Det Supt Keith Fletcher, who is leading the enquiry, said there was no sign of forced entry, which indicated that the couple had let someone in. Their belongings had

been disturbed and he believed that a burglar had taken place.

Neighbours said that Mr Bryan and his sister had seen off an intruder a few weeks ago. Mary Renshaw, 78, a close friend who called the police early on Monday morning, said: "They did have someone try to get in but they were always very careful to keep their front door locked."

Mr Bryan and Mrs Castle moved into the flat 46 years ago with her husband, who died in 1986.

Her five children and grandchildren were frequent visitors. "Both of them were very pleasant, very trusting and were always helping neighbours out," Mrs Renshaw said.

Mrs Castle's son-in-law Dennis Leonard, 47, who runs a pub in nearby Stepney with his wife Janice, described the brother and sister as "true

Eastenders". He said Mrs Castle was fit and healthy for her age and had just returned from a holiday in Eastbourne.

"The family has taken this very badly. We just cannot believe what has happened," he said. "Annie was the sort of person to give, give, give. She would have given her last morsel to help others. She never upset anyone."

Mr Leonard said his mother-in-law was very wary of opening the door to strangers. "The people who did this must have known her because there was no sign of a forced entry."

Elaine and Debbie Low, sisters who live in the low-rise council block, said there had been several break-ins. Despite this, Mr Bryan and Mrs Castle were friendly with their neighbours, chatty and outgoing. "He was such a nice man," Elaine Low said. "Only on Saturday night he made my mum some pasties. They loved the children and always gave them sweets."

An elderly man was found murdered in sheltered accommodation yesterday after sustaining serious head injuries. James Alexander, 84, was discovered at the home in Hampstead, northwest London, by the warden at lunchtime.

Scotland Yard said it was not yet clear whether Mr Alexander had been the victim of a burglary that went wrong. A spokesman said: "This was a vicious killing and we are anxious to catch whoever has done this."



B.K.S. Iyengar, the Indian yoga master, helps followers perfect their powers of balance yesterday at an international yoga convention at Crystal Palace, London. The teacher, in his seventies, has taught his method for over 50 years, with the violinist Sir Yehudi Menuhin an early convert

## Star offers to take truth drug

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE actor Burt Reynolds has offered to take a truth serum on live television if his estranged wife, Lori Anderson, does so too, in a peculiar attempt to prove that he indulged in fewer adulterous affairs than she did.

Reynolds said on American television yesterday: "I will give her everything I own, including the \$13 million she was asking for, if she will take a sodium pentothal test, and I will take one right beside her."

"We'll ask how many extramarital affairs she's had since we got married and ask me how many I had, and ask the dates of hers and the dates of mine," Mr Reynolds said, adding that his wife, who is an actress, would not accept the challenge.

"If she does, she could win everything. If I win, I get Quinton [their four-year-old adopted son]. That's all I want."

Mr Reynolds' challenge comes two months after he filed for divorce, following four years of marriage and 11 years together.

Sodium pentothal, one of many misnamed "truth serums", is actually a barbiturate used by anaesthetists before surgery. Instead of making Mr Reynolds and Ms Anderson confess their marital infidelities, the drug would probably render them both comatose. That would be a great relief.

## Fire wrecks Judi Dench's house

BY JOHN YOUNG

A FIRE badly damaged Dame Judi Dench's 18th century cottage and destroyed much of the actress's most cherished theatrical memorabilia early yesterday.

The blaze swept through the first and second floors of the listed, three-storey house in Hampstead, northwest London, damaging part of the roof only six hours after firemen had put out an earlier fire.

Dame Judi, 58, was at her country home on the Surrey-Sussex border with her husband Michael Williams when the fire struck — but was seen in tears when she visited yesterday morning.

Her daughter Flinty, also an actress, had been at the house with two friends when fire broke out. All escaped unhurt. London Fire Brigade was first called to the house shortly

after midnight. Firemen found a small fire on the first floor, apparently started by an up-turned candle, and put it out. At 7.25am, the brigade was called again and this time it took 40 firefighters two hours to quell the blaze.

The spokesman also said investigators were looking into the causes of both fires. One possibility was that the earlier blaze re-ignited, but he said firefighters routinely stripped areas affected by fire to ensure there were no hidden hot spots.

Whatever the cause, it is unlikely to be made public — only Dame Judi and her insurers will be entitled to the information.

Dame Judi and her husband have lived in the house for 25 years. Among the debris outside yesterday were



Dame Judi: away from house when fire struck

books, clothes, everything. There is a lot of black stuff and a lot of water damage."

Dame Judi has had a distinguished career on the London stage and has appeared in performances by the Old Vic, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre. Her film credits include *A Room with a View* and *A Handful of Dust*, and she has also performed in many television productions.

Her production of *Romeo and Juliet* is currently running at the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park. She is due back on stage on Saturday.

Within hours of viewing the damage, she and her husband went ahead with a recording of *King Lear* for the BBC in honour of Sir John Gielgud's 90th birthday. "You just have to get on with these things," Mr Williams said. "It's a great shock."

## Family beaten and robbed by masked shotgun gang

BY LIN JENKINS

A PROPERTY developer was beaten at gunpoint and three generations of his family tied up when a gang broke into their secluded home in the New Forest.

The four men, all wearing ski masks and carrying sawn-off shotguns, escaped with £10,000 in cash and jewellery after threatening to kill the family, whose house in Ringwood, Hampshire, is 300 yards from a police station. Police are investigating the similarities of the attack to three robberies around Chichester, West Sussex.

David Smith, 47, disturbed the gang when he returned from the pub shortly before 11pm on Monday to find his 90-year-old mother, his wife and three children tied together. His mother had been dragged from her bed.

Mr Smith was beaten about the head and knocked to the ground before being forced to hand over the money and

jewels. The robbers, three of whom spoke with Irish accents, escaped with the family's red BMW.

Det Insp Paul Dawson, who is leading the enquiry, said that Mr Smith was forced upstairs "and the men told him they would kill him unless he gave them his money, and he was forced to hand it over. The family are very lucky that they had money to give the gang, because they were highly volatile and they could well have become more violent and this whole incident would be very much more serious."

Mr Smith's wife Eileen freed herself and raised the alarm. Her son Andrew, 19, his sister Michelle, 17, and their nine-year-old brother were shocked but unharmed. Mr Smith was in Salisbury District Hospital yesterday, being treated for minor cuts and bruises. The family's alsatian puppy was examined by a

vet after being kicked when it barked at the robbers.

There was no sign of a forced entry at the house, Mr Dawson said. "The gang seemed very well organised and the family had done this sort of thing before. They had obviously targeted this house. It is possible that someone close to the family may have said something to others who thought that the house was worth robbing."

A spokesman for Hampshire police said that the robbers were "obviously a professional criminal gang". A white car believed to have been used by the men has been recovered and was being examined by police yesterday.

Mr Smith was recently associated with the development of the Ashley Heath industrial estate in Ringwood. The family's home is up a private drive and stands in the grounds of the Riverside country club.

## Jackson stays silent on abuse claim

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

MICHAEL Jackson, the pop star whose bizarre habits and intense privacy have enthralled Americans since he was ten years old, is facing allegations of child abuse.

Yesterday, as the 34-year-old millionaire musician bumped and ground his way across a Bangkok stage at the start of the latest leg of his "Dangerous" concert tour, police in Los Angeles confirmed that he is now the subject of a criminal investigation, while his aides insisted that he was the victim of a failed blackmail attempt.

On Saturday, Jackson's home in Century City, Los Angeles, and his 100-acre Neverland ranch, where he keeps a private zoo and fairground, were raided by police. Last week, a Los Angeles child welfare agency reportedly received a complaint from a woman claiming her child had been abused by Jackson during a visit to the pop star's home.

A private investigator employed by Jackson, describing the episode as "an extortion gone awry", said the complaint was filed after blackmailers unsuccessfully attempted to extort \$20 million from Jackson.

These people tried to extort Michael for a lot of money," Anthony Pellicano, who has co-ordinated Jackson's security for four years, told NBC television. "They



Michael Jackson with fans in Bangkok yesterday

made threats they wanted to go to the district attorney's office and I said 'Go'. When we would not pay, a phone call was made to Child and Family Services which started this investigation." According to his staff, Jackson receives 25 to 30 extortion threats every year.

Mr Pellicano said that the alleged blackmailers knew Jackson, but he refused to identify them or the woman

who filed the complaint. Police also declined to give details of the investigation, pointing out: "We have to be sensitive to everyone involved." One of Jackson's more celebrated quirks is his taste for litigation.

The black musician's strenuous attempts to avoid revealing details of his private life have been met with an equally determined effort on the part of gossip columnists and chat show hosts to

uncover even the most incidental detail about the reclusive star. His skin has proved a particularly fertile source of controversy.

Earlier this year, Jackson took the unprecedented step of granting a lengthy interview to the television inquisitor Oprah Winfrey, during which he insisted that the light colour of his skin was the result of a skin complaint inherited from his father rather than the consequence of cosmetic surgery.

In the interview, he said his father physically abused him as a child, but added that he had probably "deserved" his ill-treatment.

Jackson also talked about his friendless youth as lead singer of The Jackson Five, which had its first number one hit in America when he was 11. He surrounded himself with children, he said, to make up for his unhappy childhood and lack of parental affection.

As part of his charity work, Jackson invites hundreds of sick and disabled children to visit his ranch every year.

According to press reports, Jackson's two best friends are the actress Brooke Shields and "Bubbles", a pet monkey.

Jackson, who is due to perform 15 concerts in Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, Russia, Israel, Turkey and the Canary Islands before returning to America, has steadfastly refused to comment on the allegations.

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# Sheep heads left at gate in Mafia-style rustling dispute

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

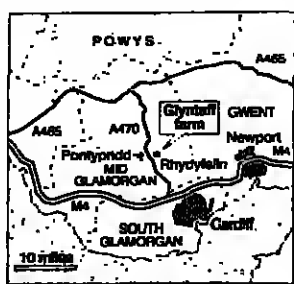
WELSH police are investigating the dumping of 41 sheep heads at the entrance to a farm near Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan. The macabre incident, more suited to the *Godfather* films than the bucolic world of hill farming, appears to be the latest twist in a long-running dispute over allegations of sheep rustling.

Gerald Mason, of Glyntaff Farm at Rhydyfelin, said yesterday that he was confronted with the grisly spectacle at his farmgate at 6.45am on Monday. "Whoever did it must have left the heads during the night. We think some came from our animals, but their ears had been cut off to remove identification marks so we cannot be sure."

Last year, Mr Mason appeared in court on charges of stealing sheep, but the case was withdrawn because of lack of evidence.

He said: "There has been friction between our family and four or five other farmers in the area because we have doubled the size of our farm over the past few years. They are just jealous of our expansion."

Other residents were found



to our house. In June of that year, my barn burnt down."

Chief Insp Richard Ravenhill, of Pontypridd police, said: "We are investigating the dumping of the heads at Mr Mason's farm. There have been a number of other incidents of criminal damage in the area over the past year but we cannot be certain there is any connection between them."

Health authority staff have

sheep were stolen from common grazing land and adjoining farms between Pontypridd and Caerphilly, and a further 300 sheep and lambs have been stolen so far this year. I myself lost 100 sheep last year," he said.

The opportunities for sheep rustling are much greater in the hills because so many of the animals are grazed on common land. "Hill farming is based on trust and when that trust breaks down, chaos ensues," Mr Huntley said. "A sheep can be worth the best part of £100, taking into account its sale value and the subsidies that can be claimed on it. Fortunately, I was insured against theft."

Police said their efforts to prosecute sheep rustlers had been hampered by the lack of an effective method of marking sheep. Many farmers cut a series of notches in the sheep's ear, but they can be removed by cutting off that part of the ear. It has been difficult to prove in court that such mutilation has taken place with the intention of removing another farmer's identifying mark.

Malcolm Thomas, deputy director of the regional office of the National Farmers' Union in Swansea, said: "Any case of sheep rustling is extremely serious and should be vigorously pursued by the police."

"We have a lot of common grazing land in the Welsh hills and it is extremely regrettable when normal farming harmony is disrupted by such incidents as these."



Arnold Harris, assistant registrar at Queen Mary and Westfield College in London, sorting through a mass of UCCA forms

## Registrars pass A-level juggling course

By WALTER ELLIS

IT IS often the parents who are the worst. They have invested so much energy and hope in helping their children into university that they can feel rejection most keenly.

"Look," says one of the harassed admissions staff at Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, "I understand how you must feel and I know how difficult it is. But I must ask you to be reasonable." A high-pitched buzz is discernible down the telephone. The Queen Mary's man waits patiently for the parent to draw breath, then counters swiftly. "I'm sorry, but I can't guarantee your son a decision today."

Such calls are a commonplace up here and down university admissions offices this week. The A-level results that landed on the doorsteps last week were a welcome summons to

University admissions staff are the frontline troops in the battle for scarce university places. It is they who must patrol the frontier between success and failure

some, a death knell for others. For those caught tantalisingly in between, they represent possibly their first adult crisis. The realisation that they have not, after all, sailed effortlessly through and must join the scrum for last-minute places requires cool nerves and determination, qualities often in short supply just days after they have had the stuffing knocked out of them by two Cs and a D.

Arnold Harris, assistant registrar for admissions at Queen Mary's, clearly feels for the borderline candidates but must operate in accordance with the rules. Those looking to become law students cannot be considered at this stage unless they

have achieved at least 24 points on the A-level table.

Grade A is ten points, grade E — the bottom pass mark — is two. To get a comfortable 26, a candidate would typically have an A and two Bs. Most of those now seeking university entrance through the clearing house are more likely to have a B, a C and an E and must trust to luck and the juggling skills of admissions staff if they are to achieve their end.

"It can be a shock for some people when they discover they haven't made the grade," Mr Harris says. "And it's difficult for us to establish who are the ones who should have done better and can still benefit from

a university education and those who oversold themselves." Few candidates are prepared to go anywhere or do anything, he says. "They remain discerning to the end, still ringing around hoping that something will turn up."

At Queen Mary's, a computerised command centre helps to process the borderline brigade. The academic staff make the decisions, but the processing team still has the power to shock. "How many points do you have? I see, I'm sorry but we're looking for low 20s at least."

But there are joys, too. Rowzat Tayyebkhan, an ex-student on the processing team, says that the successful candidates can be overcome by the good news. "One girl yesterday couldn't stop squealing. It was brilliant. It really made my day."

Leading article, page 15  
Times survey, page 1

## Woman of 98 stages lone sit-in

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN aged 98 is refusing to move from her nursing home after it was closed by the local health authority last Thursday.

Eva Marshall has rejected attempts to persuade her to move by doctors and social services staff after the Molyneux Park nursing home in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, was shut.

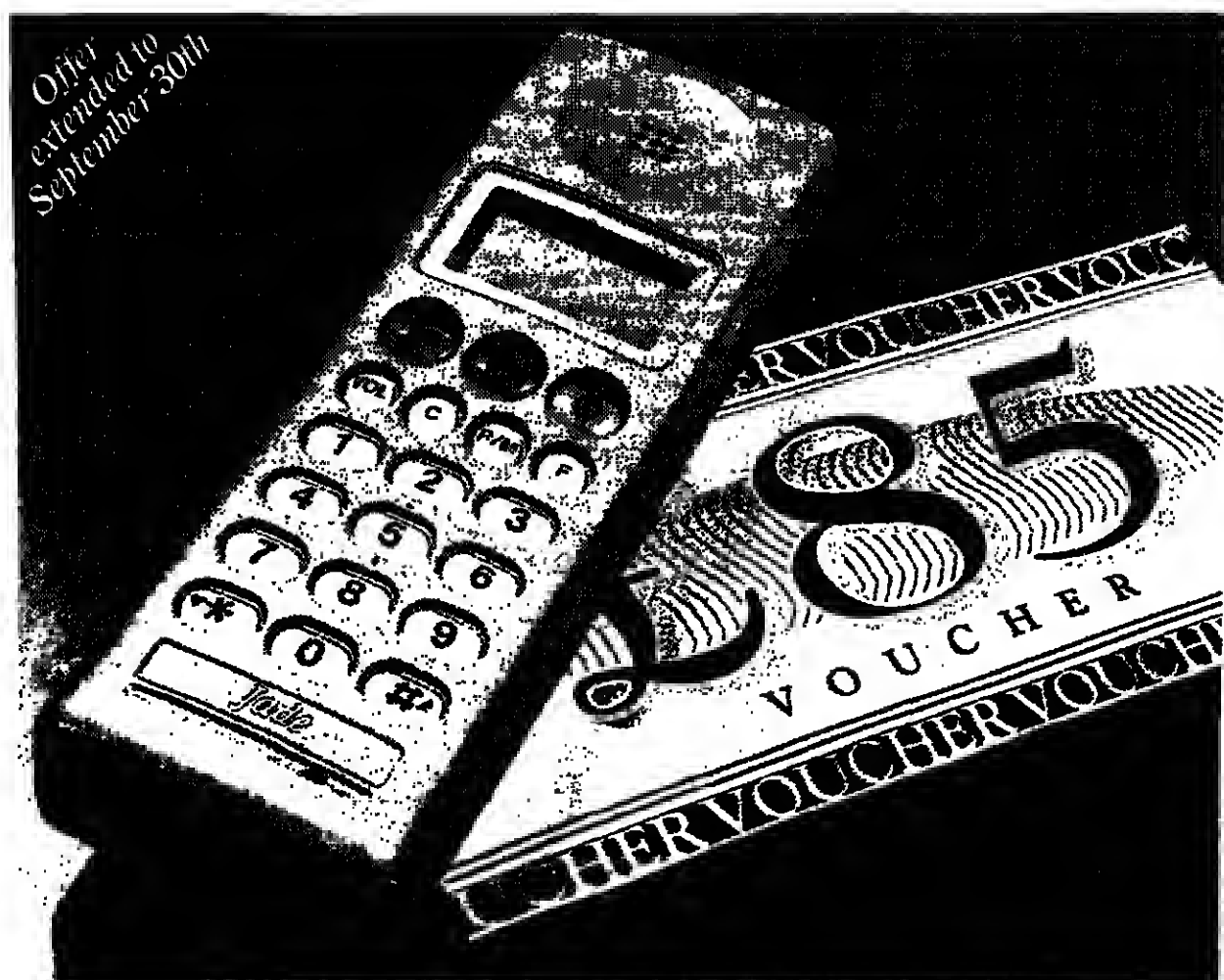
Other residents were found

rooms at nearby homes after inspectors recommended closure. Mrs Marshall, however, is determined to stay in the room she has lived in for nine years. She moved there with her husband, who died a few years later.

A place has been found for her at another home but, with force ruled out, all attempts to move her have failed.

Health authority staff have

been taking meals to her room and caring for her since Saturday when other residents left. Beverley Koonjul, who owns Molyneux Park with her husband, said: "A doctor tried to persuade her to move and had his foot in the door of her room so she pushed it out into the corridor with her walking stick. If she doesn't like what they are saying, she will not listen."



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## THE TIMES WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP



By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE role of honour in the Lloyds Bank tournament, which has been running since 1977, includes: Aleksandr Beliavsky (USSR); Simon Agdestein (Norway); Michael Wilder (USA); Gary Lane (England); and in 1989 Zurab Azmaiparashvili, now an assistant to Garry Kasparov.

Here is a crucial game from 1989 in which Azmaiparashvili dispatched one of his chief rivals, Jon Speelman.

White: Zurab Azmaiparashvili

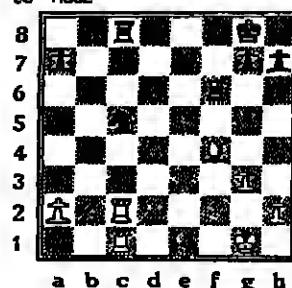
Black: Jon Speelman

Lloyds Bank Masters 1989

English Opening

1 c4 Nf6  
2 Nc3 c5  
3 Nf3 Nc6  
4 d4 Qc7  
5 Nxd4 Qb6  
6 Nf3 Qb6  
7 g3 Ne5  
8 h4 Bb4  
9 Qc2 d6  
10 Bc3 Qc7  
11 Bg2 Bc3+  
12 Bxc3 b6  
13 Bxc3 dxc3  
14 e5 dxc3  
15 Nxc3 Nc6  
16 Nf4 Bc7  
17 cxd4 Bx7  
18 Bx7 Qb7  
19 Qd1 Qd0  
20 Qd4 Qd0  
21 e4 Nf6  
22 Qe6+ Rf7  
23 Rf1 Rf8  
24 Qf6 Rf8  
25 Qxc8 Rxc8  
26 c5 Nd5

27 Bc2 Nf6  
28 Re5 Nf6  
29 Qxc5 Nd7  
30 Rd5 Nc5  
31 Rf1 Rf7  
32 Bf4 Rf6  
33 Rd6 Rf6  
34 Rd2 Rf6  
35 Rd2 Rf6



Black resigns. Whatever Black might do, the pin against his knight will cost him a piece.

Chess festival

The London Chess Centre is organising two months of chess activities in conjunction with the British Chess Federation and the London Chess Festival, to celebrate and run concurrently with the world championship match between Nigel Short and Garry Kasparov.

Events include coaching, commentaries, lectures to children, blitz tournaments and simultaneous displays. The London Chess Centre is situated at 369 Euston Road, London NW1. For further information, telephone 071 388-2404.

## Reader's game

This game, won by *Times* reader Colin Searle, was crucial to the final of the knock-out league in Leamington.

White: R. Yeung  
Black: C. Searle  
Leamington League 1993

Lauren Gambit

1 e4 e5  
2 Nf3 Nf6  
3 Nxe5 Qc6  
4 Qd4 Qb6  
5 Nf3 Qb6  
6 Qe2 Qc6  
7 Nc3 Nf6  
8 Nf4 Qf7  
9 Qe4+ Bc7  
10 Qe4+ Bc7  
11 Bg5 Qd7  
12 Bx7 Qx7+  
13 Kd1 Rf8  
14 Qd5+ Kh8  
15 Nc3 Nc6  
16 Bg5 Bg4+  
17 Nf3 Nxd4

White resigns

Chess exhibition

To celebrate *The Times* World Chess Championship and promote interest in the game, Haslemere Educational Museum is organising a series of junior tournaments at the museum next month.

An exhibition of interesting and unusual sets will run from September 7 to October 30, coinciding with the Old Games. Ring 0428 642112 for further information.

Kasparov remembers, page 13  
Winning Move, page 40

## REAL ARTISTS OF THE CHESSBOARD

MARCEL Duchamp, one of the founders of dadaism, surrealism and cubism, became so obsessed with chess that he gave up art. He won tournaments in Paris and New York, played for France in four Olympiads, and wrote one of the most obscure of all books on the endgame: *L'Opposition et les Cases conjuguées sont reconciliées*.

The high spot of his chess career was Hambourg 1930 when Alekhine being indisposed, he faced one of the all-time greats, Frank Marshall, in a France-USA match — and snatched a surprise draw.

On his honeymoon in 1927, he spent the days studying chess and most of the nights sleeping. His enraged bride crept downstairs one night and glued all pieces to the board. The marriage lasted three months.

René Magritte was another great surrealist

ist absorbed by chess, although his friends said it was just as well his paintings were better than his Sicilian defence.

Maximilian Mopp, a co-founder of dadaism, was reckoned to be in the Duchamp class as a chess-player. Max Ernst and Man Ray played chess with Duchamp; but were more famous for their chess-set designs than for their quality of play. Other chess-playing artists: Rembrandt (who, according to one biographer, learnt from Ruy Lopez's text-book), Gustave Doré, Paul Klee, Georges Braque, Vicky the cartoonist, Yves Tanguy, Maurice Vlaminck, Walter Sickert and Salvador Dali, who designed a set made of solid silver fingers and thumbs.

Excerpted from *The Even More Complete Chess Addict*, by Mike Fox and Richard James (Faber & Faber: £10.99)

ist absorbed by chess, although his friends said it was just as well his paintings were better than his Sicilian defence.

## Drug cash laundering 'puts banks in danger'

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

CRIMINALS may be undermining the viability of some of Britain's biggest financial institutions by using them to launder huge volumes of money made from drugs dealing and forgery operations, Albert Pacey, the new head of the National Criminal Intelligence Service, suggested yesterday.

Mr Pacey, who became director general of the service earlier this month, said: "The money has to be moved around somehow. It can undermine the institutions."

Banks and other financial organisations have made 16,000 voluntary disclosures of information about suspected financial transactions involving criminals to the service.

The figure is expected to grow as people involved in large scale crime, particularly involving drugs, attempt to launder their money through High Street banks and other organisations.

About 12 per cent of disclosures made to the service have led to successful police and customs investigations. Additional intelligence which helped current enquiries came from a further 25 per cent of the disclosures.

Mr Pacey, 54, said the service, which has a £25 million annual budget, has identified 500 important criminals in England and Wales. Most of them lived and operated in the South of England and he believed a further 2,000 needed watching.

The service has produced dossiers on 450 criminal operations through informants, leading to 330 arrests. Its international liaison officers have given information which has led to the arrest of more than 60 people around the world and the recovery of dangerous drugs with a street value of more than £100 million.

Mr Pacey said public concern about street crime should not overshadow the hidden dangers of sophisticated drug trafficking, fraud, money laundering, large burglaries and organised crime.

حکومت اسلامی



# Detectives launch investigation into woman's claims of violence and child abuse

## Daughter leads police to disciples of cult guru

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

DETECTIVES from North Wales launched a big investigation into accusations of child abuse at an isolated cult commune yesterday when they travelled to London to interview Rebecca Teacher, one of more than a dozen alleged victims.

Miss Teacher, 18, who was severely beaten and abused for over six years, was at the centre of a criminal trial last week in which she exposed the sect's activities. She is helping police to compile a dossier on "The Teachers Community" by putting them in contact with other victims prepared to give evidence of childhood suffering.

The focus of the allegations is Kevin O'Byrne, 57, her father, whose cult was likened by Judge Taylor at the Old Bailey to those run by David Koresh in Waco, Texas, and the Rev Jim Jones who led 913 disciples to suicide in 1978.

Mr O'Byrne fathered seven children by four women at his

farming commune near Bangor, Gwynedd - several of them registered in the surname Teacher. He already had five children by his ex-wife, and was described by the judge as "mentally deranged and viciously violent".

Police are expected to interview him after they complete their enquiries among victims of the commune. Mr O'Byrne, a former schoolmaster with a history of mental illness who liked to be called "Kevin of the Teachers", is said to be on holiday in France.

Last week, a jury cleared Miss Teacher and her step-father William Webb, 43, of blackmailing him.

She accepted that she sought £50,000 from Mr O'Byrne by threatening to expose him to newspapers. But she said it was compensation for her suffering and to protect other children by financially damaging the cult.

Miss Teacher, rescued at the age of 11 by her mother who

quit the cult and won wardship proceedings, has been fighting for an investigation since 1986 when she began making complaints to police, the NSPCC and schoolteachers, only to be met with disbelief.

Miss Teacher said yesterday: "I am telling all and helping the police locate several other victims. Some of them are too scared to help but at least five are willing to speak. The fact that I had to endure a trial to get the police to take action is ridiculous. But the first stage has been accomplished and now I hope justice will be done."

Det. Chief Insp Gareth Luke, leading the enquiry, said: "Officers are speaking to Rebecca. Then we shall decide what further enquiries need to be made. It will take a long time. I don't want to rush Rebecca. She has had a terrible ordeal."

Meanwhile, the Charity Commissioners have frozen

the bank account of a registered charity set up by Mr O'Byrne to fund the cult and taken control of its property because of concern over its administration.

Mr O'Byrne, who founded the cult in 1972 and acquired the farm in 1975, recruited fellow Mensa members who were made to leave their children in Wales while they lived in cult premises in London. The cult was awaiting the day when a nuclear holocaust destroyed society and The Teachers could emerge to re-educate the survivors. The Welsh commune was abandoned about six years ago after a planning application to extend its facilities was turned down. It now has about 11 members and survives in Bledington Grounds, a 17th century farmhouse near Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, a large Victorian house in Ealing, west London, and a small house in Oxford.



Detectives want to interview Kevin O'Byrne, top, after allegations of abuse by his daughter Rebecca Teacher, right, and William Webb, below

## Hearing aid offers new hope

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

HEARING aids anchored in the bones of the skull can offer better sound to thousands of deaf people. The bones transmit the sound, bypassing the middle ear to produce much better hearing for some people who have been deaf since birth and others who have become deaf after infection.

The technique, pioneered in Sweden, is being carried out in several British hospitals. David Proops, consultant ear, nose and throat surgeon at the Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre in Birmingham, says that the operation can be done as a day case, under local anaesthetic, and is no more difficult than crowning a tooth.

A small hole is drilled in the mastoid bone behind the ear and a titanium screw fitted into it. The bone grows around the screw and integrates it completely into the bone structure. A platform, which appears above the skin, is attached to the screw.

The hearing aid, made by the Swedish company Nobelpharma, fits into the platform with a simple bayonet fitting and is concealed by hair.

## ish italarge ided

FROST

mailed and y the suffered, four un men air-rajevo were m hospitals yesterday to gthy process n. ased grati in for their and subse-ent but re-world that others across yovina were and in need onijic, who ed from the mary in Ox-d himself as The 27-year-ental techni-banded, an interpret-ty but I am cause many one are hurt and they are they are not d as they

## County courts fall short of high standards pledged

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE county courts in England and Wales are not living up to the promises of the Courts' Charter with their poor facilities and failure to provide the people who use them with adequate information, a survey published today says.

The National Consumer Council survey of 819 people in 35 county courts finds that the public are dissatisfied with the service they receive. Many court users are not told what they want to know, such as how long they will have to wait, what documents they should bring, and what they should expect when they arrive, the council says.

The Courts' Charter, published in November 1992, promised to inform consumers about transport to the court and the facilities available there, and to provide the name and telephone number of a court official who can be contacted for further help.

But the council survey found that more than 90 per cent of the people surveyed had not been told about facilities available, 88 per cent had not been sent information on how to get to the court, and 77 per cent had not been given the name of a staff member.

At the court, users were most dissatisfied with canteen facilities, the lack of public telephones and poor access for prams and wheelchairs. People were satisfied with the politeness of counter staff and the length of queues, but much less satisfied with the lack of privacy, which was considered to be serious by those using counter services and those attending court for a hearing. Fifty-seven per cent of those surveyed wanted to be given more privacy.

Facilities varied markedly from circuit to circuit, with courts in the Wales and Chester circuit coming out of the survey particularly badly. Of

those who had used the courts there, 83 per cent were fairly or very dissatisfied with canteen facilities, 65 per cent were fairly or very dissatisfied with the toilets, and 42 per cent were very dissatisfied with access for prams and wheelchairs.

Only 12 per cent of all users questioned wanted to complain about court services but 76 per cent of those did not know that there was a complaints procedure.

Ruth Evans, the consumer council's director, said: "Going to court can be a stressful and difficult experience. The results of our survey show too little effort is put into making the experience less bewildering and more manageable for consumers."

The evidence suggested that the Courts' Charter was not being consistently or properly implemented. "The Lord Chancellor's department and all courts should review the extent to which they are meeting the charter promises."

The council is calling the setting up of a formal complaints procedure with the power to deal with grievances about poor service and maladministration and to award compensation. Consumers should also be able to complain about the way they have been treated by the judiciary, it says.

Other proposals include the setting up of consumer advisory committees for each county court, and for the Lord Chancellor's department to review listing procedures. The council says that the department and the county courts should monitor the progress of the Courts' Charter and compliance with it.

□ CourtWatch: Implementing the Courts Charter (National Consumer Council, 20 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH: £3.50 inc postage)

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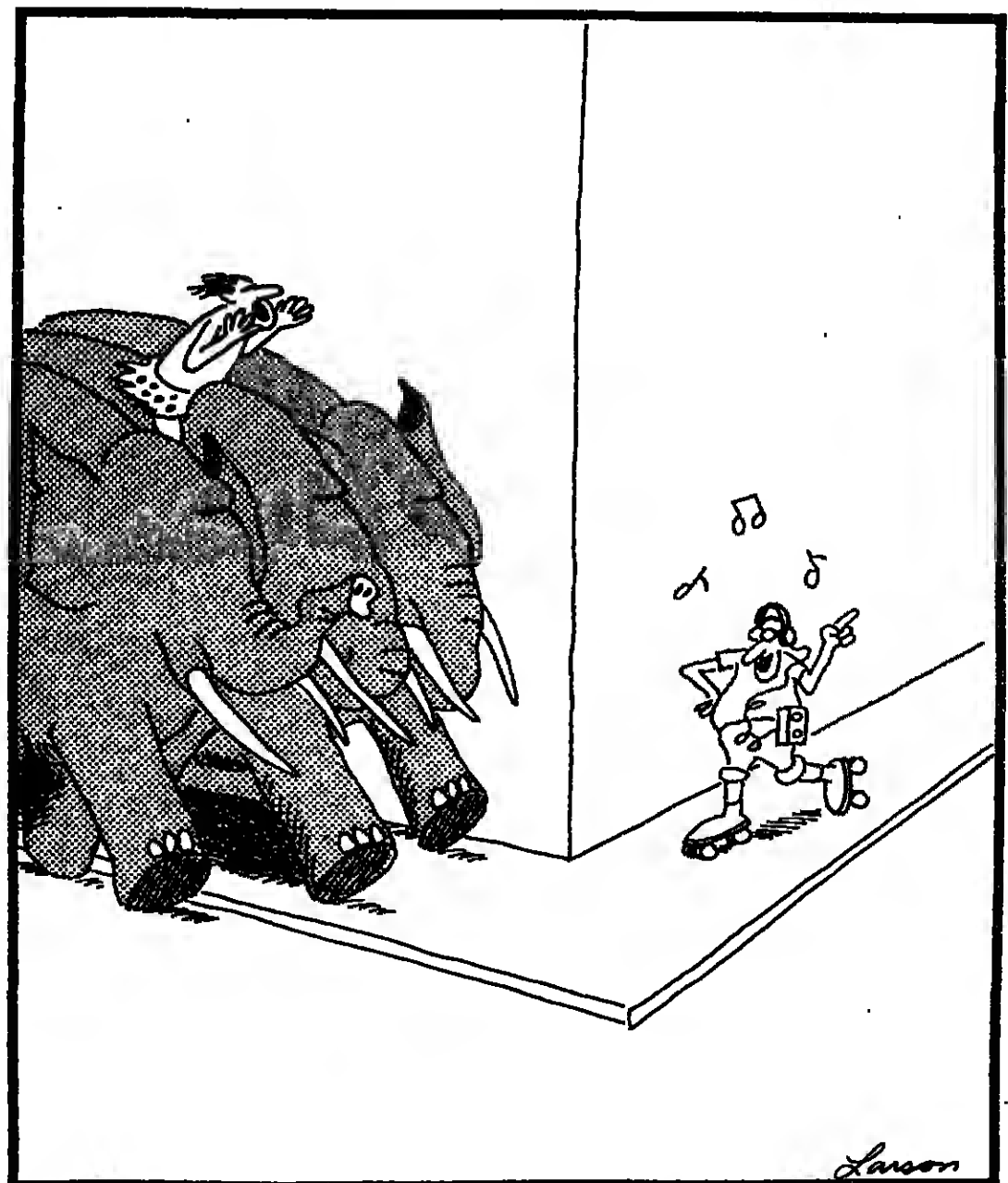
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**NATIONAL SAVINGS**

SECURITY HAS NEVER BEEN SO INTERESTING.

## Conductor suffers eye haemorrhage

By ALISON ROBERTS  
ARTS REPORTER

SIR Edward Downes, principal conductor at the Royal Opera House, was recovering from laser treatment yesterday after a haemorrhage in his left eye caused almost complete blindness.

Sir Edward, 69, suffered a similar illness in his right eye more than 40 years ago and now has only peripheral vision in both. An operation to cauterise haemorrhaging blood vessels was carried out at Moorfields Eye Hospital in central London. New techniques can recover sight, a spokesman for the hospital said yesterday.

Jonathan Groves, Sir Edward's agent, said that his conducting career would continue, but might be limited to works he knows by heart.

"The question is really whether he can learn new scores with vision which makes it very hard to read lines of music," he said. "At



Sir Edward: forced to cancel engagements

the moment, it is as if there is a metal bar in the middle of the eye. But he is an incredibly stoical and resilient man, with huge reserves of determination."

Sir Edward has been forced to cancel several conducting engagements in coming weeks, including a performance of Verdi's *Otello* at the Edinburgh festival and a Cardiff memorial concert in honour of the Welsh baritone Sir Geraint Evans.







# Briton bounces back from jungle crash in search for moths

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

A BRITISH scientist has emerged unscathed after crashing his flying machine in a Sumatran jungle as he chased rare moths.

Charles Cockell's micro-light, which uses the Dambusters technology of the second world war, hit the ground at 45mph in a remote rainforest, somersaulted three times and was destroyed.

Undaunted by the disaster, Mr Cockell has switched to elephant power as he searches for unrecorded species.

Mr Cockell, 26, a postgraduate student at Oxford Univer-

sity and leader of a ten-strong Anglo-Indonesian expedition, said yesterday: "I was very lucky to get out alive... just as I was about to hit the ground I managed to pull up the nose which may have been a factor in my survival."

The aircraft is known as the Barnes Wallis Moth Machine after the inventor of the bouncing bomb. As with the Lancasters of 617 squadron, it uses angled spotlights to verify its height over the rainforest.

The accident echoes the disaster that befell a British expedition to the region con-

ducted by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, the founder of Singapore, in the nineteenth century. His ship, laden with specimens and drawings, sank off the Sumatran coast after an explosion involving a gunpowder keg.

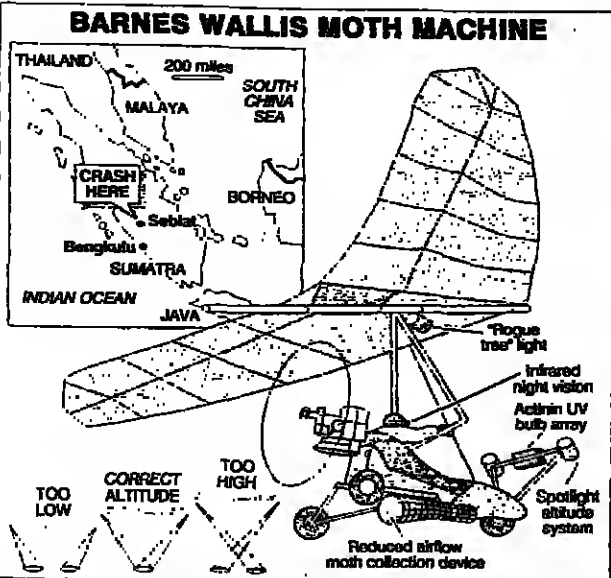
The micro-light crashed on August 19 after the engine failed and the right wing tipped, clipping an oil palm tree as Mr Cockell tried to reach a landing strip in a forest clearing south of Seblat, a village in the Bengkulu region.

Three miles away, a truck used by two of his colleagues broke down at the same time. Edwin Ashton, 26, one of the expedition's illustrators, and Daniel Barker, 21, the project's botanist, donned night-vision goggles and walked for over an hour through a forest inhabited by elephants, tigers and snakes to reach the crash.

Mr Cockell spoke by telephone to *The Times* from Bengkulu town where the team has returned for provisions. He is working with staff from the Bogor Zoological Museum and Bogor Herbarium in Indonesia. They have commandeered a herd of trained elephants which they will use to return to the rainforest to collect more specimens during the last three weeks of the two-month expedition.

Mr Cockell admitted that the loss of the moth machine was a blow but said that the contraption had proved its worth as a means of collecting moths dancing over the canopy. Over a four-day period, up to ten flights were made in which species were gathered in a specially designed net slung underneath after being attracted by the machine's ultra violet bulbs.

Many other plant and animal specimens, collected from one of the world's most remote and unspoiled regions, have been gathered on the ground. The team is hoping to discover unknown species.



## 12 hurt at fairground

By Ronald Falk

AN ENQUIRY began yesterday into an accident on a roller coaster at Blackpool Pleasure Beach in which 12 people were injured.

The Health and Safety Executive is examining a steel bar that sheared on Monday evening. The train split into two halves, which collided. Nine of the injured

were taken to hospital with whiplash injuries, cuts and shock. All were later released.

The damaged car was replaced and the ride reopened. David Cam, secretary of the pleasure beach company, said: "We are professional passenger carriers dedicated to running rides and making them as safe as they possibly can be."



Lynn Redgrave, left, and Rita Tushingham who star in *UK Hollywood*, part of BBC2's autumn season

## BBC highlights the Thatcher years

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

THE Thatcher era is to be remembered in a special season of programmes on BBC2 to coincide with the new session of Parliament in October. The week-long season, *After Maggie*, also coincides with publication of Baroness Thatcher's long-awaited memoirs and the screening of a four-part documentary on BBC 1, *Thatcher: The Downing Street Years*, in which the former prime minister gives her own candid assessment of John Major and other Tory colleagues.

Michael Jackson, controller of BBC2, said that the season had been a last-

minute addition to the channel's £70 million autumn schedule. He denied that he was deliberately courting controversy with the season, but added that he was keen for BBC2 to become a forum for social and political debate.

The season contains a number of documentaries, including *Without Her*, a speculative programme which examines what might have happened if Margaret Thatcher had failed to win the 1979 general election. The BBC has "borrowed" the *Spitting Image* latex puppets from ITV for a spoof programme, *Thatcherworld PLC*, an exploration of Britain's newest theme park.

The new season sees the rerun of

*Civilisation*, the documentary series by the writer Kenneth Clark, first shown in 1969, and repeats of the sixties puppet show *Captain Scarlet*.

Innovations include *Poems on the Box*, a series of 90-second poetry readings. BBC2 has also bought *Wild Palms*, a melodrama-cum-soap based on a comic strip in the New York fashion magazine *Details*. Set in 2007, it stars Jim Belushi and Angie Dickinson. In *UK Hollywood*, Lynn Redgrave and Rita Tushingham recount their experiences of the sixties film world.

Media, page 18  
Television, page 39

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Scorpion bites store worker

A supermarket worker suffered partial paralysis after he was bitten on the hand by a black scorpion in a bunch of bananas from Guatemala.

Phil Clifford was taken to North Tyneside Hospital as the scorpion, the length of a matchbox, was cornered by staff at the Safeway store in North Shields. Mr Clifford, 25, whose right arm swelled to twice its normal size, has since made a full recovery.

A Safeway spokeswoman said spiders and tree frogs were common in bananas, but this was the first case she knew of a scorpion. Normally, such creatures were killed in fumigation by suppliers.

#### Conman hunt

A conman who befriends pensioners before asking for loans is believed to have netted £150,000 over two years to fund his high living. Police say Gerald Knight, 45, is wanted in connection with over 30 deception cases across Britain.

#### Car suicides

The bodies of a man aged 30 and a woman aged 25 were found in a fume-filled car with their wrists slashed in woodland near Netherfield, East Sussex. Police were treating the deaths as suicide.

#### Crime call

PC Blake Carrington claims to have reduced crime on his Cambridge beat by 87 per cent by carrying a mobile phone, allowing him to keep in touch with informants with knowledge of local criminals.

#### Cat ordeal

The RSPCA is to prosecute two 14-year-old girls after a cat was dropped into warm tar at Ilkeston, Derbyshire, and stuck to a pavement. It was rescued by its owner.

#### Dead end

Longstanding residents are protesting at efforts by a building company to rename a road in Blackpool. Kensington Homes fear buyers may be put off living in Abattoir Road.

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Baku government claims mass desertions by separatist troops in the south

# Azerbaijan leader says breakaway rebellion is beaten

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

HEIDAR Aliyev, Azerbaijan's acting president, claimed yesterday that the separatist uprising in the south of the country was over and that there had been mass desertion among the forces of Aliakram Gummatov, the rebel chief.

Mr Gummatov, whose forces had wrested control of several areas along the Iranian border, fled after the desertions. Mr Aliyev said that opposition troops had been giving themselves up in the districts round the Caspian Sea port of Lenkoran after angry demonstrators stormed the rebels' headquarters driving out Mr Gummatov and his bodyguards. Their whereabouts were unknown. He added that the frontier posts set up by Mr Gummatov's men between the rebels' self-proclaimed Talysh-Mugansk republic and the rest of Azerbaijan were still being defended.

"Many of Gummatov's soldiers are laying down their weapons and refusing to obey him," Mr Aliyev said in a television address, calculated to increase pressure on the rebel forces to surrender. "But there are still some people under his command."



There has been no comment on the alleged collapse of the rebellion from Mr Gummatov's supporters, who have failed to regain control of their headquarters in the Lenkoran local administration centre.

Violence broke out on Monday in the town when thousands of people gathered to protest at the rebels' plan to fortify the border of the Talysh-Mugansk region and separate the seven southernmost districts of Azerbaijan from the rest of the country. Three pro-Aliyev demonstrators died and the atmosphere in the town was reported to be tense yesterday.

The rebels seized control of the seven districts in June during the military uprising which through Mr Aliyev, Azerbaijan's former Communist Party leader, back to power but have failed to consolidate local support. Government troops, under pressure from their Armenian enemies in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, have been unable to take back the region.

Armenian forces have strengthened their hold on Nagorno-Karabakh, forcing Azerbaijanis to leave the area

consolidate local support. Government troops, under pressure from their Armenian enemies in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, have been unable to take back the region.

Azerbaijan forces pulled out of the key town of Fizuli on Monday in another victory for the Armenians. The development followed the fall of Agdam further north and brings the Armenians closer to their goal of cutting off Azerbaijan's southwest corner.

Coalition forces: Defence ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States agreed yesterday to set up coalition forces to tackle Islamic rebels in south Tajikistan, Interfax reported. The forces, under a Russian commander, would have units from Russia, Kirghizia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan as well as Tajiks. (Reuters)



Armenian forces have strengthened their hold on Nagorno-Karabakh, forcing Azerbaijanis to leave the area

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## France to promote new ideas on Gatt

Dresden: Alain Juppé, the French foreign minister, said yesterday that Edouard Balladur, the prime minister, would present Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, with new ideas to break the deadlock at the Gatt trade talks.

He said France remained opposed to an EC-US deal known as the Blair House agreement to reduce subsidised agricultural exports. After a meeting with Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, he said that M. Balladur would propose modifications and reinterpretations of the agreement when he meets Herr Kohl tomorrow.

Herr Kinkel said Germany was still interested in maintaining the Blair House agreement as it stands. He said Bonn and Paris would consult extensively in preparation for a September 20 meeting of European Community foreign and agriculture ministers so that a common position could be worked out. (Reuters)

**Anti-graft post**  
New York: Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, has appointed a fellow Egyptian, Mohamed Aly Niaz, to a new high-level post responsible for rooting out corruption in the UN.

**Suspects held**  
Stockholm: Police have detained three Russians and a Swede on suspicion of planning to kidnap industrialist Peter Wallenberg, 67, a relative of Raoul Wallenberg, the war hero who died in a Moscow prison. (Reuters)

**Paris blockade**  
Paris: French farmers plan a tractor blockade of all rail and road routes to Paris on September 15 to drive home to the government the strength of their opposition to reform of the EC's common agricultural policy. (AFP)

**Yen for travel**  
Tokyo: Emperor Akihito, above, of Japan and Empress Michiko's trip to Europe next month will cost 197 million yen (£1.3 million). About 80 million yen would go on gifts and "social expenses". (AFP)

**Grapes of wrath**  
Sydney: The wine industry here is to fight tax increases that it says will force 140 wineries to close. (Reuters)



Tokyo: Emperor Akihito, above, of Japan and Empress Michiko's trip to Europe next month will cost 197 million yen (£1.3 million). About 80 million yen would go on gifts and "social expenses". (AFP)

## Bonn MPs' illusions shattered

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A NEW design flaw has been discovered in Germany's accident-prone new parliament building: the grand, mirrored ceiling could cave in and spray the deputies with shards of glass.

The one consolation for deputies yesterday was that their fate would come silently. The acoustics of the new chamber are such that no politician can hear anybody else, let alone the cracking of glass above their heads.

The safety problem was discovered by experts from the construction ministry who stressed that there was no immediate danger. "Even so," said the official communiqué, "the glass mirrored panels have been removed pending new tests." Either the wrong material was used or it was put together incorrectly, said German engineers yesterday.

When the chamber was first unveiled many deputies believed they had entered the space age, or at least Club Class democracy. The deputies' chairs could be adjusted backwards at critical moments. On the console in front of every deputy a flashing light was to signal that it was time to make a speech.

Computer-directed microphones would immediately identify the position of the speaker. But from the first day nobody could hear anything. Lack of co-ordination between the government, the architects and the audio specialists meant that debates ended up a jumble of noise. The glass walls of the round chamber bounce back the sound with confusing effect.

## Macho empire strikes back

BY ANNE McELVOY

Russia's much-maligned macho men have had enough. It was bad enough when their partners at home failed to appreciate them enthusiastically how much worse to discover that their irresistible appeal is also scorned in the wider world.

Now the male empire is getting ready to strike back — as soon as it stops sulking.

The six million readers of Russia's biggest-selling newspaper, the weekly *Argumenty i Fakty*, are being treated to a battle royal over the merits and faults of the Motherland's men and the old enemy, women. The debate has unleashed a postbag as large and opinionated as in the journal's glory days as a mirror of Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost.

This week's instalment is a deconstruction of foreign women by A. Mitroshkov from Obninsk. "Western women are less attractive than ours despite having more opportunities to look after themselves. They are also capricious, too ambitious and very unpleasant to socialise with," he writes.

Mr Mitroshkov travelled to Europe recently to continue his research and re-

turned thoroughly disgruntled. "Studying thoroughly the body of the 'sex symbol' Madonna in Western sex magazines, I felt nothing but pity for her and her partners. I have never felt this way about any Russian woman."

All this started when a woman, a Westerner at that, dared to slight Russian men, Barbara Smith, an American sociology postgraduate who had just finished a research stint in Moscow submitted an essay to the newspaper reflecting on attitudes to women and sex among young males.

She reproduced some typical reflections on love Russian-style with one of her interviewees boasting: "I like to have sex in the same way I drink vodka — pure, fast and all in one go." She deduced from her female acquaintances that women were dissatisfied with this no-nonsense approach. This was exemplified by one of her female respondents, who told her: "Nothing functions properly and completely in this country, and that includes our soon-to-be former husbands."



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# UK envoy makes retaliatory strike on German press

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN

BRITAIN yesterday took up the cudgels against the German press in an unusually public Anglo-German spat over Balkan policy.

Sir Nigel Broomfield, Britain's ambassador to Bonn, said he was "amazed" by the aggressive tone of German commentaries on British involvement in Bosnia. German analysts, some of them close to the governing Christian Democratic Union, have been accusing Britain of ganging up with France to restrict German influence in southeast Europe.

"London's attitude in the Bosnian conflict must lead to the rewarding of the aggressor and the punishment of the victim," said a typical recent commentary. Bonn, or those journalists who closely mirror government thinking, is particularly irritated by the Operation Irma mercy flight and the suggestion that Britain is doing more than Germany to help the people of Bosnia. Germany has taken 300,000 refugees from the war zone.

The ambassador's riposte in *Die Welt*, itself a harsh critic of Whitehall, catalogued Britain's achievements in Bosnia: 2,500 troops on the ground, 50,000 tonnes of aid escorted, another 40,000 tonnes delivered. "Those commentaries that claim we intend to support the aggressor in the conflict are not remotely in tune with Britain's real policies or its real intentions," he said, in as close to a thundering conclusion as any senior diplomat *in situ* can manage. His article was clearly authorised by the Foreign Office.

The argument, studiously aimed at German journalists rather than those officials who have been guiding and informing them, is not in the same league as Nicholas Ridley's notorious interview with *The Spectator*. That has been etched in the German consciousness and, indeed, has

With France and Germany seeking to co-ordinate their Balkan policy, Britain's ambassador to Bonn has launched a forceful defence of London's view

become the subject of doctoral theses on turning points in Anglo-German relations.

But the ambassador's intervention is important for its timing. France and Germany are just embarking on an intensive reconciliation after months of political combat. Their foreign ministers met yesterday and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and Edouard Balladur, the French prime minister, will do so tomorrow.

Yet the fundamental differences between Paris and Bonn are as deep as ever on such matters as free trade and European interest rates. There is, however, scope for narrowing their differences on the



Sir Nigel, close to a thundering conclusion

Balkans. The French were stunned at the Copenhagen summit when Herr Kohl read out a letter from President Clinton urging the arming of the Bosnian Muslims.

While the French are almost as reluctant as the British to end the United Nations arms embargo, they do agree with Bonn on the need to refocus

European Balkan policy to concentrate on protecting and saving the Muslims. That may just leave Britain isolated, the chief scapegoat for the European Community's sluggish military posture.

Sir Nigel's article, a courtly defence rather than an anti-German torpedo, is intended to position Britain correctly in a time of shifting European alignment. He emphasised that the German press was missing the point with its anti-British rhetoric.

Britain's policy in Bosnia was aligned with that of the EC and the difference, he hinted, was rather between those in the Community who were doing something on the ground and those who were not. "It is easy to criticise. But anyone involved in a situation such as Bosnia quickly grasps that he must make difficult decisions. That is the way of things when one takes on responsibility."

□ Pale Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, said yesterday that there would be no further peace negotiations if Bosnia's mainly Muslim parliament rejected the latest Geneva proposal. He also suggested that his forces would then solve the dispute by force (Joel Brand writes).

Harris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister, said it was unlikely the current proposal would be approved by the parliament at its meeting in Sarajevo on Friday. "The latest proposal from Geneva needs considerable adjustments to be accepted. A mere glance at the map shows that the future Bosnian republic is not viable economically or politically," he said.

Convoy halted, page 1  
Letters, page 15



A UN soldier looks on as an injured Sarajevo man holds his daughter. Both have been accepted for treatment overseas

## 'Forgotten' Croats condemn West as Muslims prepare new offensive

By RICHARD BEESTON

WHEN a Muslim sniper hidden in the woods above the British base at Vitez picked off Father Vinko Trogic as he set off for work at the makeshift hospital in the Bosnian Croat village of Nova Bila, the elderly priest knew there was little the doctors would be able to do for him.

Grooming in agony from the bullet, which entered his right temple and lodged in his sinus, the Catholic priest registered no surprise when the surgeon told him that they would have to leave the bullet where it was. The field hospital at the Holy Ghost church in Nova Bila is the most potent symbol of the worsening position of the 75,000 Croats in central Bosnia-Herzegovina who are surrounded by Muslim forces.

"We used to be able to go to the hospitals at Travnik and Zenica, but now we are reduced to this," said Dr

Branislav Kulic, whose staff of three surgeons struggles to cope with the daily influx of civilian and military casualties. The poorly-equipped intensive care unit, located in an old seminary hall, is packed with people suffering severe bullet and shrapnel wounds. Three of the beds are taken up with a mother and her three children, who were all injured by a single mortar shell.

"We have tried to tell the world about our problems, but they do not want to listen," said the doctor, who holds out little hope that the 12 serious war casualties awaiting medical evacuation will receive the treatment they require abroad. "Our conditions are as bad, if not worse than Muslims in Sarajevo or Mostar, but nobody cares."

The same view is expressed throughout the remaining Croat villages in the Lasva Valley, where the community feels deceived by its own leadership but also

resentful at what it regards as the international community's double standards. Father Zoran Livancic, the spiritual leader of the Croats in the Vitez area, said 20,000 civilians had been made refugees by the Muslim offensive.

Of even greater concern is the speculation that the Muslims will attempt a fresh offensive in central Bosnia, at Gornji Vakuf and in the Lasva Valley, in an attempt to strengthen their negotiating position ahead of the resumption of peace talks at Geneva on Monday. The wording of the latest agreement was deliberately ambiguous about the contested Croat-Muslim areas, an apparent invitation to the area's warlords to make a final grab for land.

"What we are witnessing is a cultural massacre of our heritage," said Fr Livancic. "Let the world protect the Muslims, but let them also protect the Croats."

## British hospitals discharge wounded

By BILL FROST

STILL disorientated and traumatised by the suffering they endured, four wounded Bosnian men airlifted from Sarajevo were discharged from hospitals in Britain yesterday to begin the lengthy process of recuperation.

They expressed gratitude to Britain for their flight to safety and subsequent treatment but reminded the world that thousands of others across Bosnia-Herzegovina were still suffering and in need of help.

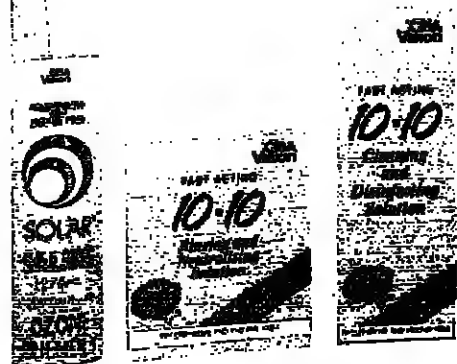
Dino Dugonjic, who was discharged from the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford, described himself as "lucky man". The 27-year-old former dental technician, heavily bandaged, said through an interpreter: "I am happy but I am also sorry because many people back home are hurt much worse and they are still there and they are not being treated as they should be."

His friend Senad Mirvic, 27, was yesterday transferred to another Oxford hospital for further dental treatment. Both men suffered severe facial injuries after they were caught in a mortar bomb blast. They were flown to Britain with 19 other adults and children ten days ago. Two of the four men being treated at St James's Hospital, Leeds, were discharged yesterday.

Five-year-old Irma Hadzimiratovic, whose suffering inspired the airlift, was "slowly getting better", according to staff at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Rome: Two planes carrying 19 sick and injured Bosnians arrived at Falconara air base yesterday at the start of an airlift that could bring more than 450 war victims to Italy for hospital treatment.

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# Defections unlikely to weaken grip of Saddam

The envoys who defied Saddam were not part of his inner circle and are unlikely to possess any secrets. The worry for Baghdad is that more defections may follow

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE defection of two senior Iraqi diplomats is an embarrassment to the discredited regime in Baghdad, indicating a profound malaise in the Iraqi establishment, and could lead to further defections. It is not, however, likely to weaken President Saddam Hussein's grip on power, Iraqi exiles said yesterday.

Although Hisham al-Shawi and Hamed al-Jubouri, the ambassadors to Canada and Tunisia, came from prominent families, they were not part of Saddam's inner circle and had no power base in Iraq to challenge the president, the exiles said. They have been out of Iraq for several years and were unlikely to have technical information that would reveal how much Saddam has complied with United Nations demands to scrap weapons of mass destruction or whether he still has nuclear ambitions. Their knowledge, however, could hold give a clearer picture of Iraq after three years of trade sanctions.

"I wish I could say it will shake the regime, but it won't make any dent," said Saad Jabr, leader of the Free Iraqi Council, in London. "These guys are just pawns."

Iraqi opposition groups said that other diplomats were

keen to defect but were unable to while their families were in the Iraqi capital and vulnerable to Saddam's revenge.

Baghdad sought to play down the defections, claiming that the envoys left the foreign service last month after reaching the retirement age of 63. "They have been relieved of their duties and no longer represent the Iraqi government," said an official at the Iraqi embassy in Jordan.

Mr al-Shawi, an Oxford graduate and former justice minister and ambassador to Britain, comes from a prominent family in Baghdad. Mr al-Jubouri, who served as foreign minister during the 1980s, was closer to leading political circles. He comes from a large, mainly Sunni Muslim tribe in western Iraq whose influences extend southwards into the more restive Shia areas. The tribe supported Saddam's regime in the past and many of its members were senior officers in the Republican Guard, but its power was smashed several months ago when it was accused of plotting a coup.

Many of its members were arrested and others fled to Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, while several were allegedly poisoned by Saddam's intelligence agents.

Analysts and exiles doubted that the two defectors could have detailed knowledge of Saddam's attempts to rearm after the Gulf war. "They don't let ambassadors have any information. These guys are more or less figureheads," Mr Jabr said.

One Iraqi exile, whose family is still in Baghdad, said: "It is embarrassing for Saddam, and the defections will have alarmed the civil service, but he will laugh it off. It's more of a boost to the Iraqi opposition, whose credibility has been suffering because of internal rifts."



Saddam: likely to laugh off show of opposition

Iraqis defect, page 1



The government is bringing hope to the overcrowded and rubbish-strewn slums of Cairo by installing new water supplies and sewers

## Governor with the popular touch keeps Cairo shanty towns free of extremists

New facilities and bureaucracy with a human face are thwarting Islamic militants in the slums of Egypt's capital, Michael Binyon writes

He was dressed almost in rags, prematurely old, his matted hair and beard full of the dust of the slums, carrying a child limp as a rag doll with another holding on to his legs. "I don't have anywhere to live," he told the governor. "I need a flat."

Abdel-Rahman Shahateh, trim in a blue safari suit, looked up from his desk. "How many children do you have?" "Five." "Any work?" "No." He looked at the accompanying document, circled a couple of sentences in red and handed it to a waiting official. "OK, I'll see what we can do."

The door opened on to a hubbub in the courtyard outside as about a hundred people, clutching petitions, jostled to take their complaint directly to the man charged with running Giza, the sprawling five-million strong suburb of western Cairo that includes not only the Pyramids and the Sphinx but also

many of the festering shanties where migrants from the countryside flock in search of work.

The next one came in: an older man in a scruffy white gallabiya, stubble covering his grizzled face, the instinctive pleading subservience emboldened by the urgency of his case. "You must help me, governor. The Prophet's blessing upon you. I need..."

He rambled on, taking off his skullcap and gesticulating tears usefully springing to his eyes, appealing to the clerk and the assistant nearby and finally making everyone roar with laughter at his clowning. And so they came, one after another, each getting the governor's promise to cut

through the red tape, sort out an abuse, put in a word for a flat, a job, an urgent medical operation, a licence that had been arbitrarily withheld. They had about 40 seconds to make their case and hand in typed petitions that mandated the relevant local authority to report back to the governor's office. Each week, for two hours, Dr Shahateh hears their cases.

Yesterday he had to hurry away afterwards. In Imbaba, a teeming shanty town where over 600,000 people are packed into two square kilometres of narrow alleys and half-built tenements, the minister of housing and the head of

Cairo's water authority were arriving for a ceremony to mark the start of construction work to expand the water purification plant nearby.

Imbaba certainly needs fresh water. It also needs drains, roads, electricity, schools, medical centres and youth clubs. "We have to do all these things in parallel," explained Dr Shahateh, a Minnesota-trained agriculturalist.

For 30 years Imbaba had been neglected by public services. Suddenly there has been action, spurred on perhaps by recognition that this is the classic breeding-ground for discontent, territory that would-be militants have been trying to radicalise, so far with very little success. In the past year the main roads have been paved, piped water and sewers supplied to every block, rubbish collection instituted and about £10 million of foreign aid funds spent on infrastructure.

The pride of Imbaba is its

new youth club, built over a covered canal. The governor and his deputy were shown round and the impromptu visit continued through the market. The governor exudes the charisma of a popular leader as he banter with stall-holders and, with the capriciousness of the Oriental potentate, grants a licence on the spot for a legless man in a chair to open his own stall.

Politics here is as much about keeping in touch, being seen and explaining new proposals as it is about funding the transformation of these urban infernos. "People are willing to wait if they believe the authorities are listening," Dr Shahateh said. "I try to come here at least once every two weeks."

"You see," a young man called out as we drove off, "no terrorism here." In the battle for control of Egypt's exploding cities, men such as Dr Shahateh have clearly seized the initiative.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Babangida postpones handover of power

Abuja: President Babangida, Nigeria's military leader, will formally give up the presidency tomorrow and an interim government will be immediately sworn in, his spokesman said here.

The senate approved the transfer of political power to an interim government on Monday night, but scuffles broke out in the lower house of parliament yesterday when it began debating the issue. Opposition groups represented in the Campaign for Democracy coalition plan three days of rallies from today to protest about his refusal to give power to the presumed winner of last June's presidential polls. (AFP)

#### Hostage talks

Quilali: The archbishop of Managua travelled to this remote northern village to try to negotiate with José Angel Talavera, the guerrilla leader holding 18 hostages. Government troops had begun withdrawing from the area, which was a condition for any talks. (Reuters)

#### No to summit

Johannesburg: A peace summit proposed by Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, King Hassan of Morocco, and President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast to try to end civil war in Angola has been rejected by Luanda.

#### Fighter dispute

Buenos Aires: Argentine government officials have protested over alleged British diplomatic pressure to stall the sale of 36 Skyhawk fighter aircraft from America. The Foreign Office denied that it was trying to prevent the sale.

#### Beirut welcome

Beirut: Lebanon, which is seeking aid for its reconstruction work, welcomed Shaikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, here. It is the first visit to the capital by a Gulf leader since before the 1975-90 civil war. (Reuters)

#### Jordan soiled

Jerusalem: Raw sewage in the Jordan has raised bacteria levels to 25 times the permitted level for bathing, Israel's Nature Reserves Authority said. There will be more tests before a decision is taken on a swimming ban. (AFP)

## Kisses sweeten Indian television

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIAN independence day last week marked the launch of five new government-controlled television channels. Under present plans, audiences will soon see such films as *The Naked Truth* and *Carry on Loving*, which would bring kissing to official Indian screens for the first time. The television boom is an attempt by the government to regain audiences from foreign satellite stations and to shield them from corruption worse than mere kissing.

With that in mind, K.P. Singh Deo, minister of state for information and broadcasting, has introduced a bill in

parliament designed to counter what he calls a cultural invasion of Western and "alien" programmes. The proposed legislation is aimed at censoring tens of thousands of neighbourhood cable operators who do brisk business in every corner of urban India by relaying foreign programmes to local subscribers. The bill would prevent them sending out anything that violates the government's programme code, which has always kept Indian television so innocent.

That would sound the death knell for even the most timid foreign programmes. *Neighbours*, which has crept on to screens of late, would probably violate the guidelines. *The Bold and the Beautiful* definitely would.

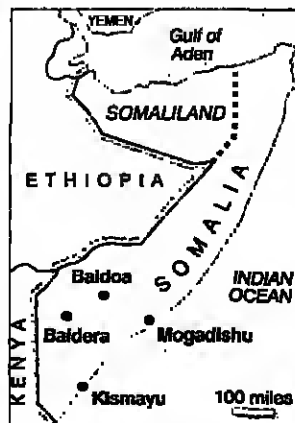
The information and broadcasting ministry says cable operators will be obliged to broadcast at least one of the new channels without interruption. The entertainment channel is bound to be most popular. Least popular will be the "enrichment channel", with programmes on the glories of Indian history.

The planned censorship legislation is being studied by a parliamentary standing committee and there is little doubt that it will undergo significant amendment under pressure from opposition parties. The government's real objective is to preserve its broadcasting monopoly and control of news programmes.

Leading article, page 15

## Aid workers threatened in Somalia

FROM SAM KILEY IN MOGADISHU AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON



VIOLENCE and insecurity in which 35 United Nations troops have been killed since June has spread to the inland Somali town of Balad, where aid workers have been threatened with grenade attacks if they do not leave by the end of the week.

The news of the threats in Balad came yesterday as the UN was preparing to have talks with representatives of the Somali National Alliance, led by General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the fugitive

warlord. At the same time in Washington, it was announced that President Clinton had decided to send 400 commandos to Somalia to join the hunt for General Aidid.

The new contingent will be US Army Rangers, an elite force of light infantry paratroopers who specialise in stealthy, unconventional warfare. They will be attached to 1,200 American troops already in Somalia as a quick-reaction force under US command. In addition, there are about

4,000 American support troops under UN command. Mr Clinton made his decision after a lorry carrying US support troops was blown up in Mogadishu at the weekend, injuring six of them, none seriously.

Food is plentiful in the Somali capital, where Care, the international agency, has switched from free food to swapping bags of maize for sacks of rubbish. In contrast, Balad still reeters on the brink of famine.

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# Trials in three cities stoke fires of American race hatred



Watson: accused of beating white driver during riots

THREE trials in three quite different American cities, but on similarly ugly themes, have sent the country's racial temperature soaring again amid charges of discrimination and widespread distrust of the judicial system within the black community.

In Los Angeles, two black men are accused of attempting to murder Reginald Denny, a white lorry driver, on Monday a Detroit jury found two white policemen guilty of beating a black motorist to death; and in West Palm Beach, Florida, this week the trial began of two white men charged with setting a black tourist on fire on New Year's day. Each of these trials may end without further bloodshed. But it is equally possible that any, or all of them, could reignite the racial violence that smoulders just beneath the surface of urban American society.

This is the lasting legacy of the Los Angeles riots, which erupted in April 1992 after a jury found four white police officers not

**Court cases arising from ugly incidents of violence are fuelling black suspicions that US justice is biased, Ben Macintyre writes**

guilty of most charges in the beating of black motorist Rodney King. That trial and a subsequent civil rights trial in which two of the accused officers received lenient sentences have left many blacks with a deep suspicion of the legal system, while leaving the police and civil authorities with an equally acute awareness of the way perceived injustice can turn, within hours, into arson, looting and murder.

The Reginald Denny trial in Los Angeles is perhaps the most volatile of the three cases. Like the Rodney King beating before it, the assault on Mr Denny was captured on videotape as he was pulled from his lorry and battered into a coma at the height of the riots. Damian "Football" Wil-

liams, 20, and Henry "Kiki" Watson, 28, are accused of a string of felonies in addition to the attempted murder of Mr Denny. To many whites in Los Angeles, they are living proof of the mindless criminal brutality that swept the city during three days in April 1992.

"Mr Williams danced with glee around Mr Denny, joyfully cavorting over what he had done," the state prosecutor alleged in his opening arguments. But for many blacks the defendants are victims of a biased and unfavourable legal system. Mr Williams and Mr Watson face life imprisonment, while the two policemen found guilty of violating Rodney King's civil rights were sentenced to just 30 months each.

Testimony in the Denny trial started on Monday, and the judge has warned the jury to assess the evidence in specific rather than symbolic terms, and not to "even the score" for the King verdicts. "We are not here to try the Los Angeles riots," said Lawrence Morrison, the state prosecutor.

A similar symbolism has overshadowed the trial of three white policemen in Detroit, accused in the fatal beating of Malice Green, a black unemployed steel worker. Mr Green, 35, was stopped by police on November 5 last year. The officers claim they thought he was holding "crack" cocaine in his clenched fist and tried to make him drop it. A post-mortem examination showed that Mr Green died from at least 14 blows to the head before he dropped the bunch of keys in his hand, although defence lawyers argued that cocaine in his system contributed to his death.

On Monday two of the officers were found guilty of second-

degree murder and now face life imprisonment, while the judge acquitted the third defendant.

In Detroit, which is nearly 80 per cent black, the trial was seen as simply another, fatal version of the Rodney King case. The convicted officers were released on bail pending sentencing on October 12. With the light sentences in the King trial still fresh in the memory, those sentences may prove the next flashpoint.

Raw racial hatred is perhaps most evident in the third trial, which opened on the day the Detroit trial ended, of two white men charged with the attempted murder, robbery and kidnapping of Christopher Wilson, a black 32-year-old stockbroker's clerk from Brooklyn. Mr Wilson was on holiday in Tampa, Florida, when he was abducted from a shopping centre, forced to drive to a remote field, doused with petrol and set ablaze while his attackers shouted racial slurs. He was burnt over 40 per cent of his body. A note,

signed "KKK", was left at the scene which read: "One less nigger more to go."

The trial of Mark Kohut, 26, and Charles Rourke, 33, was initially set to take place in Tampa, but was moved to West Palm Beach, 225 miles away, after intense media coverage and mounting fears of racial unrest.

Each of the three highly-charged cases involves complex legal distinctions, but in the public mind the issues have been boiled down to a handful of simple but contradictory beliefs: good against evil, black versus white.

The crushed face of a lorry driver, the corpse of another black man who refused to open his hand for white cops and an illiterate little note signed "KKK" — these are the grim images that have settled, sourly and permanently, in the public mind. It is these that will decide whether America's suppressed racial fury erupts on to the streets again.

## Internal troubles force Peking to risk world's wrath

FROM JONATHAN MURSKY IN HONG KONG

**The West is worried by the crackdown on Chinese dissidents. Yet with unrest growing, no would-be successor to Deng Xiaoping can afford to appease foreigners**

WITH a decision only weeks away on whether the Chinese should be awarded the Olympic Games in 2000, and Washington considering if China should continue to enjoy most favoured nation trading status next year, why is Peking creating the worst possible international impression? Or, to use a Chinese expression, why are China's leaders dropping rocks on their own feet?

During the past week alone China has been publicly criticised at the highest levels by the British, American, and Hong Kong governments for infringements of its people's human rights. And it has been explicitly warned that, by breaking international law, it is imperilling its international standing. Moreover, the Chinese bureaucracy is still obstructing the issuing of visas for several British correspondents appointed to Peking.

The immediate Western concern is Peking's election last week of Han Dongfang, the leader of the free trade union movement in China and a Tiananmen Square activist who, after 22 months in prison, had been permitted to travel to America for medical treatment and assured that he would be able to return to China. But when he attempted to do so ten days ago he was arrested and pushed across the border into Hong Kong. Soon afterwards his passport was cancelled.

The US State Department has stated that both China's candidacy for the Olympics and its most favoured nation status are now in doubt. The Foreign Office has objected to Ma Yuzhen, Peking's ambassador to Britain, and in Hong Kong Sir David Ford, the acting governor, has pointed out that, in the run-up to the 1997 takeover of Hong Kong, local people now worry that Peking could in effect banish those in the colony whose political views it dislikes.

Even Peking's supporters here are finding it difficult to justify the persecution of Mr Han. Members of the panel of Hong Kong "advisers", appointed by China as its loyal supporters here, are asking why, if Mr Han is a criminal, as China alleges, he was not tried instead of being ejected.

China is now racked by economic upheavals, so badly that a member of the British negotiating team on the band-over wondered publicly last week if there was any point in continuing the talks. But it is precisely because of its internal difficulties that China has embarked on the series of actions which is bringing it into deeper international disrepute.

Historically, when there is an internal crisis the Communist Party cracks down, primarily to suppress its fear of *dunluan* (great chaos). No contender for supreme power after Deng Xiaoping, the para-

mount leader, dies can afford to be accused of having yielded to foreigners. That explains why, in the speeches launching the great anti-corruption movement last week, foreign influences were underlined as a chief cause of the national crisis.

This is also a time when those opposed to Mr Deng's economic reforms encourage internal toughness and stricter discipline. Hence the escalation of dissident arrests during recent months.

As the well-informed local newspaper *Economic Daily* pointed out yesterday, the persecution of Mr Han must be understood in the context of China's negotiating position on the so-called "through train". This means that Legislative Council members elected in 1995 would continue in office after China returns sovereignty in 1997. Peking insists it alone will decide who remains on the council.

Manama, Bahrain: A Chinese ship suspected of carrying chemical weapons materials to Iran headed for Saudi Arabia yesterday after China agreed to allow it to be searched. Lieutenant Commander Bruce Cole, spokesman for US Naval Forces Central Command, based in the Gulf, said the 19,000-ton *Yinhe* sailed through the Strait of Hormuz shadowed by the US Navy destroyer *Chandler*.

The *Yinhe* had been bound for Dubai, where its cargo was to have been transferred to another ship sailing for Iran. But Dubai refused to let it dock on the strength of US intelligence reports that its cargo included chemicals used in mustard gas, nerve gas and blistering agents. (AP)



Han: his treatment has upset China's friends



Ruffa Gutierrez, an actress and the Philippines entry in the Miss World contest in South Africa in November, fighting back her tears at a senate hearing in Manila at which she denied accepting \$700,000 (£465,000) to have sex with a member of Brunei's royal family. She demanded an apology from Senator Ernesto Maceda, who

alleged that local beauties had worked as prostitutes in the South-East Asian sultanate. (Reuter reports). "It's not true that I have gone to Brunei for prostitution or for any other purpose," Miss Gutierrez told a senate committee investigating claims by Mr Maceda that some popular actresses were among the so-called "Brunei beauties".

## Nasa tries to rescue mission and reputation

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

NASA engineers were engaged in a frantic effort yesterday to save the \$1 billion (£662 million) Observer spacecraft mission to Mars, and with it their scientific reputation and possibly the future of Nasa.

Only a few hours before the spacecraft was due to enter the orbit of the red planet, the engineers at the jet propulsion laboratory in Pasadena, California, still had little hope of re-establishing contact, which they lost early on Sunday. If they failed, Observer would drift in space with little chance of being recovered.

Engineers think the reason for the loss of communications was a faulty clock on board the spacecraft. A Pasadena scientist said a crude analogy was that of an electric alarm clock which suffered a temporary power cut and thus destroyed its settings. Efforts were under way yesterday to make the spacecraft switch to a back-up clock and to redirect its antennae towards Earth, but by the afternoon each effort had failed. The consequence of failure, said Glenn Cunningham, the project manager, "would be a great blow to the planetary science community".

Observer was Nasa's first foray to Mars since Viking took photographs of the planet's surface in 1976. Failure to re-establish communication with Observer would be another setback to Nasa's poor record since the Challenger shuttle disaster in 1986.

Its failures have deeply affected Americans' attitudes about the wisdom of spending \$1 billion for a set of colour pictures from Mars. The value of such expenditure is disputed not only by liberals in Congress, who argue that it is unjustified in times of a squeeze on social programmes, but also within the science community, which questions whether such funds would not be better made available to other endeavours, such as genetic and medical research.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Korean tells of reactor disaster

Seoul: Hundreds of engineers died in an accident while trying to move a North Korean nuclear reactor to hide it from international inspectors in 1992, a former North Korean army officer alleged yesterday. Im Yong Sun, who defected to South Korea last month, said the accident took place at Yongbyon, 55 miles north of Pyongyang.

Mr Im, who is the first North Korean officer to defect to the South since 1989, said he did not know the number of victims or whether they died from an explosion or radiation exposure. (AFP)

### Killer gassed

San Quentin: David Mason, who killed four elderly Oakland residents and strangled his prison cellmate, died in the gas chamber here, the second person to be executed in California since it resumed executions last year. (Reuter)

### Leader agreed

Port-au-Prince: Haiti's chamber of deputies ratified exiled President Aristide's choice for prime minister, Robert Malval, furthering the implementation of a UN-brokered plan to return Father Aristide to power in October. (Reuter)

### Execution delay

Port of Spain: Two killers due to be executed in Trinidad were granted a stay for a constitutional motion to be decided. A presidential commission recommended execution for brutal murders. (Reuter)

### Teresa better

Delhi: Mother Teresa, who is recovering from malaria, is making good progress, a bulletin from the hospital said. The Nobel Peace Prize winner will be 83 on Friday. (Reuter)

### Pastor sacked

San Francisco: A Baptist pastor has been sacked from a human rights group because he believed in a Bible passage saying homosexuals should be stoned to death. (Reuter)

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Julia Llewellyn Smith tells of a mother who lost her babies because social workers would not listen

# Abuses of the state

Helen appears to have a happy family. Her husband, David, is a gentle, friendly man; their three young children are affectionate, healthy and well-behaved. But Helen is racked with anxiety, as every day she has to confront the fear that her children may be taken away from her.

Her anxiety is very real. Helen is only 33, but she has already had six children taken into care by social workers, who have marked her as a "bad mother". Her first two daughters with David were removed when they were only two days and three weeks old. To social workers, the systematic removal of Helen's children seems logical. She had been brought up in care because of physical and sexual abuse by her father and step-father and seemed doomed to repeat a pattern of unhappy relationships. By the time she was 24, Helen had had four children by four different men, the last of whom used to steal her social security money and kick her in the head, causing her to suffer blackouts.

Eventually, she escaped with the children to a women's refuge. One night when Helen had gone out, leaving the children in the care of another resident, there was an accident and the children were taken to hospital. Helen was labelled a neglectful mother, her children were taken into care and she never saw them again.

Helen was devastated by the loss but admits that problems with her husband had made

bringing up children difficult. Soon afterwards, however, things began to improve. She met David, a dependable, loving man, and after six months they decided to live together. A year later, their daughter Claudia was born.

For three weeks, Helen was at home with Claudia. Then one afternoon, when David was out, three policemen and a social worker knocked at the front door. They announced that they had come to take Claudia away, with no reason given for her removal.

The couple later discovered that the social services department had called a case conference when Claudia was only a few days old and had decided to remove her without prior advice to her parents. Throughout the conference Claudia was referred to by the name of Helen's ex-husband, whom she had left years before. No attempt was made to find out about Helen's new relationship, although officials had known of her pregnancy three months before.

Over the next six months, Helen and David met with social workers and saw Claudia during access visits, when they noted, with sorrow, that she was drawing away from them. Their only hope was a High Court hearing to decide Claudia's future. In the event the judge gave credence to the statement of a neighbour who claimed that the couple had a violent relationship. The court ordered that Claudia, now eight months old, be put up for adoption. Since then social services have described the



An artist's impression of the trauma suffered by Helen and David as they see their children being taken into care because social services had labelled them a 'bad risk'

neighbour as unreliable and her evidence as "unfounded and mean".

A year-and-a-half later Helen had another daughter, Anna. Even now, six years later, Helen starts to cry as she remembers the brief period she spent with this child. "I was in hospital waiting for David to take me home. I was a bit tired because it had been a hard birth, and nervous

because of all I'd been through before," she says. "Then a nurse came over and said Anna needed to be taken away for injections. I wasn't happy because I knew she'd had all the injections she needed, but I said yes. Then a doctor came and said I would have to stay in hospital a little longer, because my uterus was in the wrong place. It was the first I'd heard of this and I was sure he

was lying, but there was nothing I could do. I looked around and realised that they had taken the other women off the ward. I began to tremble."

In panic, Helen called her solicitor. "I'm sorry," he said. "They are coming to take Anna away and I can't stop them." As he spoke a group of social workers arrived with the police. David was there too. "I said to David 'Take the baby and run but he wouldn't. He does everything by the book," she says. "They took Anna away. I went a little crazy. I wanted to die. I tried to throw myself out of an upstairs window. They held me down, gave me an injection, moved me to a room. After that I just gave up all hope."

It turned out that 18 months after the couple had fought to keep Claudia, social services had still not acknowledged Helen's new situation. Anna and Claudia have now been adopted by the same couple. Helen's repeated requests for a photograph of the girls has been refused.

Since then Helen and David have had three more children whom they have been allowed to keep. But the social services still watch the children avidly

and the slightest mishap could lead to their removal.

Meeting the couple was one of the most distressing experiences of my life. Their sorrow and outrage almost bubble over as they speak, and Helen breaks down frequently. At the moment her arm is in a plaster cast and her neck in a brace, allegedly the result of a police raid on her flat, after allegations of abuse from the neighbour who had previously testified against them. The children were taken from their beds and, for the first time, had to spend the night away from their mother. She spent a night in custody before being released without charge.

Throughout our meeting the children, all under five, played happily and quietly. Helen is distraught at the effect of the recent police action. "The children used to sleep perfectly. Now they lie awake and say 'It's all right Mummy, the police won't take you away.' Steven [the eldest] vomits to stop being sent to bed."

The family live in a one-bedroom flat. The children have no space to play and the parents constantly have to tell them to quieten down, for fear of what their neighbour may

say. Requests to be rehoused have been turned down.

Official reports describe David as "intelligent and caring". Nonetheless, he is afraid to seek medical help with a recurring chest pain for fear of any contact with the authorities. "When I get home at night I'm scared to open the door in case my children won't be there," he says. He has lost four jobs because of the time needed to attend social services hearings.

According to Helen, this once placid man has become a nervous wreck. She is clearly tormented with guilt that he has lost two daughters, simply by choosing to stay with her. "I feel like I'm being punished. It's never ending," she says. "I'd be better off dead, but what about my children? I feel they are going to suffer."

Shirley Jackson of the Family Rights Group, which advises the parents of children who have been taken into care, says cases like that of Helen and David's are not uncommon. "Once parents have had children removed under one set of circumstances, it will

colour anything that happens in the future," she says.

"People are rarely given a second chance. There is no account taken of important changes, such as a mother maturing or finding a new father."

"If you are prepared to consider the new circumstances of a parent then it is possible to reunite children with their parents, or to stop the latest ones from being taken away."

"If enough resources are put into investigating a case at the beginning, then we can prevent this merry-go-round where the parents keep having children and the authorities keep having them removed."

In the meantime, there is little Helen and David can do. They cannot see Claudia or Anna, nor can they claim financial compensation for their agony. They are left feeling bitter that work carried out in the name of child protection has ruined their lives, but more importantly has cast a shadow over the lives of the three children they so desperately want to keep safe and sound.

● All names have been changed to protect the family



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Cricket: a dismal victory

## 'George Orwell seems to be right: serious sport is war without the shooting'

It was hard to make out, listening to reactions after the England Test win, exactly who had been defeated. Most of them — surly vox pop interviews at the ground, crabby commentators — seemed to consider it mainly a moral victory over Ted Dexter. The next opponent, to them, was not the West Indies team, but "that lot at the top" whose fault it is that England doesn't win much. The general tone was of such dreary carping in the face of victory that I have yet again given up trying to identify with national competitive sport.

I would actually rather like to look up the poet Sir Henry Newbolt's account of that breathless hush in the Close tonight, a bumping pitch and a blinding light, an hour to play and the fast man in. Remember that hero playing his heart out? ... not for the hope of a ribboned coat or the selfish hope of a season's fame — but the Captain's hand on his shoulder smote — "Play up! Play up! and play the game!" No, I do not mock: it would be fun to feel that way about sport again.

When England won the World Cup I was at school (being hammered out of every league by terrifying Amazons from Benenden), and was properly thrilled. When brave little Sunderland took the FA Cup off the Goliaths,

Leeds, in the seventies I snivelled happily to see manager Bob Stokoe vanish under an emotional mass of fans. I cut out pictures of cricketers' once. Everyone likes a good fight in a good spirit, and the occasional glorious win for Our Side.

Precisely what has happened it is hard to say, but like scores of other people I meet (not only women, either) I can somehow no longer be bothered with any of it. George Orwell seems increasingly right: "Serious sport has nothing to do with fair play. It is bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules and sadistic pleasure in witnessing violence. It is war minus the shooting." We — the middling, half-interested many — have become deprived of that gentle universal interest which used to make strangers say "Grand about England, then!" on the station platform, even if they barely knew what shape the ball was. It has all become an unappealing mess of technicalities and high finance, management politics and drug tests and anger.

Newbolt would not recognise today's cricket when it becomes — or is reported as — a snarling, bad-tempered

business where men wear ridiculous Hannibal Lecter masks, snipe at their opponents, behave like oafs on tour and court every tacky bit of publicity they can get. Any captain trying to smite his team-mate's shoulder today would end up either being punched on the nose, photographed by paparazzi for a Gay Cricket Scandal, or invited to explain at intolerable length on television how his shoulder-smiting technique was helped by the team psychotherapist.

Football, meanwhile, struggles against a slummy, violent image and the machinations of publicity-hungry tycoons. On the athletics field, with a few exceptions, the race is not only to the swift but to the well-sponsored, the privately coached, the obsessive.

We, the once-supportive outsiders, feel deprived by all this of our old pastime of cheering vaguely on the national touchline. We are not against it on principle: sixties ideas may have made us flirt for a while with the idea that competitive games were uncivilised (remember those drab sports days in progressive schools, where they only played "co-operative" games and nobody got roscies?).

But one look at the fiendish rivalries of our own children convinced us that humans will always compete, and that it might as well be channelled into properly Newboltish directions before it ends in bloodshed. It would be good to see them taught to "love the game beyond the prize".

But the yobbish, unsportsmanlike desperation to win is filtering down rapidly even to the children. Look around at the summer scene of sports days, regattas, tennis tournaments, cricket matches and gymkhanas. You will see that the stamp, the scowl, the blaming of equipment or animals, and the general plug-ugly nastiness of international sport is making its mark. Even the Ambridge cricket team is riven by strife.

Winners are too keen on winning, losers so put off by the way winners behave that they shrug and turn away. There are, after all, other places to find exercise, teamwork, leadership and achievement: ceilidhs, carnivals, chorales. You can put on a play, clean out a canal or crew on a tall ship.

"Serious sport" has shot itself in the foot. There is time for it to move back towards the high human values to which it has always paid lip service: but probably not as much time as it thinks.



LIBBY PURVES

حکذا من الاجل



# The anti-British backlash

Kate Muir reports from New York on America's new found disdain for the snobbish, poor and dreary Brits

We are bunkered down, as they say in the States, not daring to move from the relative safety of our patently small and ridiculously expensive apartments. We are not under siege from the usual New York menaces, such as this week's new serial killer from Brooklyn who wears one surgical glove, carries a 9mm pistol and calls himself Kevin. Nor do we fear the daily muggings, ambushings by homeless crack fiends in search of a donation, or dangerously shortsighted yellow cab drivers. It is still (almost) safe to go out in the streets; it is just that it is no longer safe to be British.

There had been rumblings of discontent for some time, along the simple lines of: "You come over here, take our jobs and women (or men) and then trash the place." In certain restaurants on the upper East side, at book launches and literary parties, there was perhaps a certain coolness observed towards the influx of British editors, actors, writers and businessfolk working for American institutions. Occasionally, there were witticisms about the cricket, regal toe-sucking, or Kenneth Branagh, that seemed a tad barbed.

But nothing compares with the gratuitous viciousness of the present mauling of everything and everyone British. Like carnivores attracted to a weak and limping victim, the organs of the American press are moving in for the British kill.

The satirical *Spy* magazine fronts the pack with its September "U.K. Decay!" special issue, featuring the Princess of Wales in full glare on the cover, smiling with brown, rotted, gap teeth. Inside, there is "Setting Sun - The Decline and Fall of Great Britain, 1940-93". It begins with some traditional palace bashing, deconstructing eight recent royal scandal books, and testing propositions such as "Diana is a bit thick", "the Royal family is rife with bigots" and, of course, "the monarchy is dead". Continuing under the "U.K.D.K." logo, the magazine means that the British are now in charge of most magazines in America. *The New Yorker*, *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Mademoiselle*, *The New Republic*, *The National Enquirer*, *TV Guide* and *Details*. Meanwhile, the teeny-weeny wasteland they left behind is sinking into an irreversible coma of dullness.

To illustrate said dullness, the magazine describes "A day in the life of Johnny Brit". Johnny wakes up in his groggy Hackney bed-sitter and faces "another grim morning in Albion", equipped only with his early 1970s Marks and Spencer's underpants and a cuppa of PG Tips. He goes to work in a nine-year-old Ford Escort, and on arrival forces down a cuppa of Bovril. His boss, Mr Clough, lives in a "semit-detached in Barking called Alacrity" and encourages Johnny to sell garden gnomes to "a social-climbing Paki" and flying ducks to a skinhead. The essay continues for some time in similar vein. Another section, titled "How do the



Parody: in its latest edition, America's *Spy* magazine presages an assault on the domination of the British

English Survive?" records: "To answer this question, we must examine the intricate tapestry of meteorological dreariness, Silas Marnerian singleness, Uriah Heepian creepiness and Ron Woodlan slovenliness that coalesce to make Great Britain."

Finally — and this, surely, will hurt the nation more than the fun poked at the royal family — there is a cruel parody of a column by that great British institution, *Auberon Waugh*.

The *Spy* attack could easily be dismissed as the work of a few hacks bitter at their loss of well-paid jobs to foreigners. Yet this is merely the scariest example of the backlash against the so-called Briters and their economically backward homeland. *Newsweek* magazine recently printed photographs of world leaders on a scale with their popularity. Francois Mitterrand and Bill Clinton were printed giant size for their respective national ratings of 46 and 38 per cent. Mr Major, with a sad 19 per cent, was

**'You come over here, take our jobs and women (or men) and then trash the place'**

barely visible in the far corner, only outdone in wretchedness by Kichii Miyazawa of Japan. More embarrassing still are the remarks made when the same world leaders appear on CNN television at the weekend in smart suits to condemn or support, say, the latest bombing of Baghdad, and Mr Major appears in a woolly grey V-neck jumper he appears to have had since school days.

Even William Safire, a hitherto

highly-respected, sophisticated fellow at the *New York Times*, has joined in the fray. Last Sunday he got hold of a copy of the BBC stylebook — a writing guide for journalists — and ripped it to pieces in his column. "Whose English language is it anyway?" he roared. "From the tone of the new stylebook, you'd think the Brits invented it. With unmistakable disdain, the broadcast-casters in London call what we speak American. Mr Safire then gives his own disdain for the stylebook's author a lengthy airing."

Accused of being racist, snobbish, poor and unutterably dreary, English citizens in New York are understandably nervous about venturing beyond the expat safety net. The "Special Relationship", much vaunted in the Thatcher-Reagan years, has ended in tears and bitterness. As Anglophobia replaces the Anglophilia of the 1980s, this correspondent would like to make it clear that she is wholly of Scottish blood.

# Memories of a freedom fighter

Fred Waitzkin tells a tale of friendship in the old Soviet Union that brought a tear to a champion's eyes

On June 9, 1991, three days before Boris Yeltsin would become Russia's first democratically elected president, Garry Kasparov, dressed in blue jeans and a sports shirt, stood on a platform in Moscow's Manezhnaya Square to address a cheering crowd.

"Citizens of Moscow," he began, and then for the first time noticed the immensity of his audience. There were at least 250,000 people spread out in front of him, acres of people, swaying with the anticipation of democracy, wealth and good times — no more Gorbachev, no more food lines.

Kasparov's face went white. For three or four seconds, he could not recall his words, and then he burst into a flabbergasted smile. Look where I am. This boy from Baku. A wood pusher. The champion began to speak, at first hesitatingly, but soon the words were pouring out of him. "This is the final stand against communism. It is a moment when we all must be united. Our opponents will do anything to win."

The crowd loved him. "On June 12, we will close a shameful page in our history and we will go onto the same road with all civilised people." There was thunderous applause and cheering, political banners waving. The Kremlin rocked with the chant, "Yeltsin, Yeltsin, Yeltsin."

Garry was charismatic, a political rising star. Three days later, Kasha, Garry and I walked from their little apartment to the neighbourhood polling place, a technical school which was dark and in need of repair, like all of Moscow. People standing on line ahead of us were in festive spirits.

When it was his turn to vote, he showed his passport to prove his citizenship like all the others on line, though the lady in charge, flustered over Kasparov, whom she recognised immediately, Garry was very proud this day, but also, cautious, as though recalling winning positions that he had failed to win because of over-confidence. "June 12 is an historic date because communism has lost, but democracy hasn't yet won."

We walked back to their apartment past a little lake that must once have been lovely but now was littered and stinked with motor oil. Garry was pensive. He kicked at the water's edge. "It's nice here," he said, noticing the bottles and cans. "He was somewhere else."

He threw a rock into the lake. "I have a story for you,"

he said. "It's about my father." The word caught in his throat. Garry almost never referred to his father.

"It's a classic tale," he said looking for a way to begin. "It's about three friends, all Jews, all the same age. They lived next to one another in Baku. They were really great friends. David Zaferman, Bob Korsh and my father Kim Weinstein. While growing up, they were always together. All three attended the engineering

institute in Baku. They loved the company of one another. "Eventually they all married and still they remained friends, visiting one another, talking politics. They hated the Soviet system, but probably my father was the most forthright. He would criticise the system in public and was forced to change jobs several times because of his politics. He really hated the communism."

"One time his strong views almost cost the marriage. My mother had an opportunity for advancement in her work but to be promoted she had to join the party. My father told her, 'If you join the Communist Party, we are divorced.' In 1965 my father wrote in his diary that in 25 years, there

would be no more communism in the Soviet Union. His two friends said that he was crazy." Garry nodded his head deliberately. "He was wrong by one year."

"My father died in January, 1971, when I was seven. That year his two friends brought flowers to my father's grave on his birthday, then again on the second of May, a day when people do this in my country, and once again the following January on the date of my father's death."

"Then, in 1972, David Zaferman decided to emigrate with his family to Israel. Before he left he asked Bob to bring flowers to the cemetery for him."

"After the genocide in Baku, we lost track of our friends. People were scattered to the wind. Not only Armenians. There was also a Jewish exodus from Baku. Jews tried to get to Israel. Baku was a dangerous place to live. My mother and I often thought of the graves of my father and of my grandfather. Who would care for them? Probably they would be desecrated. In Baku, everything was fouled."

"A few days ago, I was at my mother's said. 'There is an old guy looking for you.' My mother had an intuition that it was Bob Korsh. A few minutes later they found him wandering on another floor in the building and brought him to us. Bob said to my mother (Klara): 'I wanted always to live in my native city, but I'm old now and the city is empty.' 'Bob was a lost person, like many refugees from Baku who are now in Moscow. 'Klara, when they started the riots and murder, I began to cross out the names of my friends and relatives from my address book,' he said. 'One day this past April, I opened the book and I didn't find any more names. They were all crossed out. Then I understood I would leave Baku, Klara.'"

"A very short story," said Garry. "One day he opened the book and there were no more names. Please, if you go back there put three pots of flowers on Kim's grave," Bob said to us, but we won't go back there. This will be the first year there will be no flowers. The first year of no communism."

"As we walked from the lake, Garry was crying. He opened his wallet and stole a look at a photograph of his father, whom he barely remembered."

●An extract from *Moral Games: The Turbulent Genius of Garry Kasparov*, by Fred Waitzkin, Simon & Schuster, £16.99

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**Communism has lost, but democracy hasn't yet won**  
Garry Kasparov

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# Adrian Mole and the new love of his life

**Monday November 25th**  
Soho  
I am in love with Bianca Dartington. Hopelessly, helplessly mindlessly, gloriously, magnificently.

**Tuesday November 26th**  
I am here in Soho, in Bianca's room above Brenda's Patisserie in Old Compton Street. I have hardly seen daylight since 3.30pm on Monday.

**Thursday November 28th**  
Phoned my mother and asked her to send my books to Old Compton Street. I informed her that I am now living in London with Bianca. She asked for the address, but I wasn't falling for that. I hung up.

**Saturday November 30th**  
Every morning when I wake up, I can't believe that the slim girl with the long legs who is lying next to me is mine! I always get out of bed first and put the kettle on the Baby Belling cooker. I want to please her more than I want to please myself.

This morning, "Stand By Me", sung by Ben E. King, was playing on Capital Radio. I said: "I love this song. My father used to play it." Bianca said: "So do I." We danced to it, me in my boxer shorts and Bianca in her pink knickers with the flowers on. "Stand By Me" is now our song.

**Sunday December 1st**  
Went to the National Gallery today. We walked around the Sainsbury Wing like Siamese twins, fused together. We cannot bear to be apart for even a moment. The renaissance pictures glowed like jewels and inflamed our passion. Our mutual genitalia are a bit sore and bruised, but it didn't stop us making love as soon as we

got back to the room. Norman next door banged on the wall and nearly put us off, but we managed to ignore him.

**Monday December 2nd**  
I was putting my socks and shoes on this morning, when I noticed a strange expression on Bianca's face. I said: "What is it darling?" After a lot of cajoling, Bianca confessed that she adored everything about me except my grey slip-on shoes and white towelling socks. As a mark of my love for her, I opened the window and hurled my only pair of socks and shoes into Old Compton Street. I was unable to go out all day as a consequence. I was a barefoot prisoner of love.

It is now late evening and the grey slip-ons are still in the gutter. I did see a tramp try them on, but he scowled and took them off immediately though they looked a good fit.

**Monday December 4th**  
I telephoned my mother today and asked her why she hadn't sent my books on as I had asked.

She screamed: "Mainly because you refused to give me your address, you stupid sod." When Bianca had gone to work, I walked to Oxford Street and bought a dustpan and brush, a packet of yellow dusters, Mr Sheen, a floor cloth, some liquid Flash, a bottle of Windolene and a pair of white satin knickers from Knickerbox.

**Saturday December 7th**  
Bianca came home at lunch-time and asked if I wanted a job as a part-time washer-up

**Our hero abandons Pandora and moves in with another woman... Sue Townsend's comic tale continues**



in "Savages". It is cash in hand, off the books. I said: "Yes."

**Monday December 9th**  
Peter Savage, the owner of "Savages", is certainly aptly named. I have never known a man with such a bad temper. He is rude to everybody, staff and customers. The customers think he is amusingly eccentric. The staff hate him and spend their meal breaks fantasising about killing him. He is a tall, fat man with a face

like a beef tomato. He wears a CND tiepin on his Garrick Club tie.

**Tuesday December 10th**  
Savage was drunk at 10am. At 12 noon he vomited into the yukka plant in the corner of the restaurant. At 1pm his wife came, abused him verbally and then carried him out to her car, helped by Luigi, the head waiter. Bianca startled me this evening by suddenly shouting: "Please Adrian, can't you stop

that perpetual sniffing. Use a handkerchief!"

**Saturday December 14th**  
We haven't made love for over 24 hours. Bianca has got cystitis.

**Sunday December 15th**  
Bought *The Joy of Sex* in the Charing Cross Road. Cystitis is called "The Honey-mooners' Illness". It can be caused by vigorous, frequent sex. Poor Bianca is in the toilet every 10 minutes. Why is there always a price to pay for pleasure?

**Tuesday December 17th**  
Experimented with making very gentle love. I was the passive partner.

Later, we had our first argument. Where are we spending Christmas Day and Boxing Day? In our room? At her parents? At my parents? We didn't shout at each other, but there was (and still is) a distinct lack of seasonal goodwill. Bianca turned her back on me in bed tonight.

**Thursday December 19th**  
We woke up tangled together, as usual. Christmas wasn't mentioned, but love, passion and marriage were. We are going to spend Christmas with her parents in Richmond.

It will save me having to buy presents for my family.

**Tuesday December 24th**  
Christmas Eve  
I braved the maddening crowds today and went out to buy Bianca's Christmas present. After tramping the streets for two hours, I ended up in Knickerbox and bought her a purple suspender belt, scarlet knickers, and a black lace bra. When the saleswoman asked me about size I said: "She looks a bit like Paula Yates, but with black hair." The woman sighed and said:

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## Alan Coren



■ Dark moves are afoot to make English spelling neither fish nor fowl

Editor thos hat in air, Editor terms cartwheel, big beam spreads across Editors ruggedly handsome face! Suddenly *The Times* is 10 per cent bigger, it is 10 per cent better value, yet, "Stoan th flamin cross!" cries its Editor, "it is stil th same fizical size, we ar lookin at a flamin mirakl, fone this Coren bloak rite away, tel him he is on a 10 per cent rize, wate, make that wun per sent, no sens chukin all these sudn profits down th flamin drane, get me Nu York, get me Brisben, get me Markt Harbro, wares mi flamin helicopte?"

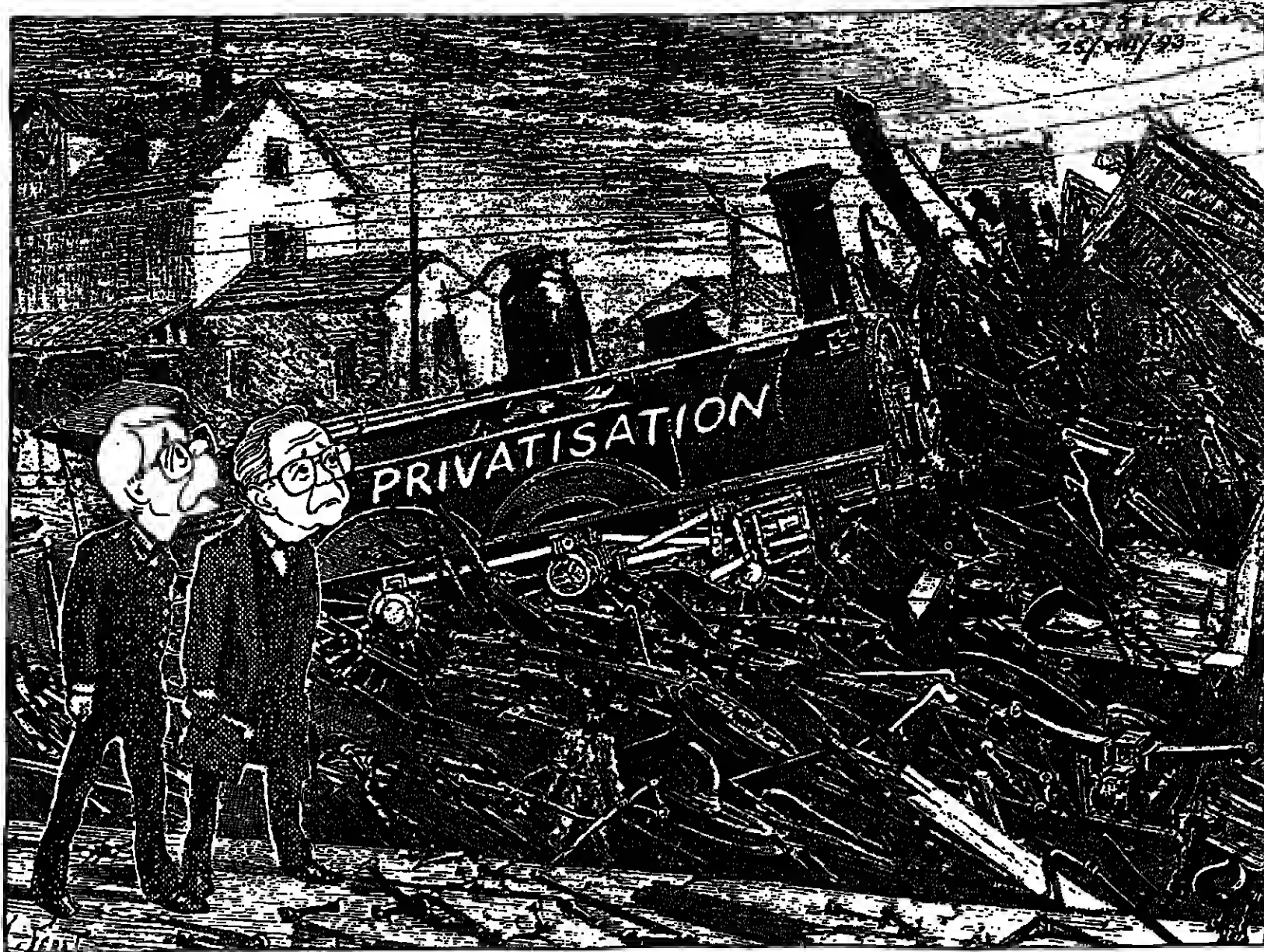
It is tru. This column is but th first puf in th iminent tifoos: wot yu, deer reedr, ar gettin today is th same lenth as yu got last Wensdy, but it is paki with 10 per sent more stuf, thanx to Mr Leo Chapman of The Simplified Spelling Society. Becos Mr Chapman has just rin to tel me about Cut Spelling, a startlin nu sistem of not only streamlinin spellin but also chopin out unnesary lettrs wich, and I kwote, "cuts wuns time at th keebord by 10 per sent and also reduces th amount of spase needed in a nuspaipr, thus allowin about 10 per sent more editorial to be fittid in". Ferthmoo, his teem has calclated that of th 28 million British werkfois, 10 million ar illitret or semilitret and cant even reed a nuspaipr: to kwote th mestr wunce agen, "ther is a hole nu constituency watin to be tapt by simplifin spellin". Now, is this or is this not musik to th Editors eers?

But th mirakl dos not stop ther: let us look at th chapir "Furthir Advantais" in Mr Chapman's amazin keeles, wate it tels how th sistem "saves time and trubl for everyone invold in rin text, from schoolchildren to publishers, from novlists to advtisers, from secretaris to grafic desyners". We lern how they wud not only save time by rin 10 per sent less, thus offrin freedom to persn other displins (wot? simplified Russh, cut jomtry, streamlined brane sergry?), but also benefit evrythin from producsin costs (eg smallr books etc) to th envirmnt (eg chukin away smallr books etc). It will also be easier to get into univarsity (no dout becos dows wil no longer think "Hear is sumwun hoo wil get thru th corse 10 per sent lowler, even longer hols for us, bluddy grate, giv him a skolship!") and, in a fasatin exampl of th sosti's infitil wisdm, "public syms and notises cud be rin larj", in other weds (kwite lirtly), thus with 10 per sent more time as th result of cut spellin hoo woud to, eg, spend that time in Hide Park wud be in no dout, from th nu big notises, that it was an ofens to cut rubish about or wid on th flours, thus avoidin hevvy penalties.

"Incredibl!" yu wil probly be shreekin at this point, "Wot a boos this nu spellin is, sudnly th hole kulchr is lookin at brosd sunny uplands, Brin wil be grate agen, oprn th bubbly!", but they may be, I hav to tel yu, a slite snag to al this; at presnt, it is but a lil cloud on th horizon only 10 per sent biger than a mans hand, but it boturs me a triff, becos I hav had a few trys at rin diffrnt tipes of stuf in th nu stile, and I think I may hav spoid wot mite be a teknild hich wich has for sum reesn, God nose how, escaped Mr Chapman and his sosti.

Consider these headlines: "Chansler Sez No Nu Taxes: Redd Mi Lips"; "Man Nifes Gard In Bank Rade"; "Despit Plite of Hoamless After Leeds Fludds"; "Athlon Struk On Hed By Beemer, Tuch And Go Sez Surgn." Now, can yu gess wot I am slitle worried about? Rite, I am slitle worried about th fact that it is absoltly impossibl to take anythin seriously if it is rin in th nu spellin. It cannot be dun. I do not no wy this shud be, al I no is that if I open *The Grate Gatsby* or *War And Peas* or *The Mare of Casterberj* at random and attemt to tern just wun singl paragraf into Mr Chapman's remarkabl orthogry, pritty soon I am rolin helplessly about on th flore, coffin and spluttrin, and this is almost sertainly not wot these mair rters intended.

But yes, since yu rase th point, there is indeed a pental ax been ground heer, becos sudnly evrywun hoo ev rote anythin is about to becom a bluddy humerist, and these days it is hard enuf earnin a krust as h is, wouts evrythin from *The Brothers Carry Mats Off to Pair O'Dice* Lost gettin in on th act.



## What good is a warm spy?

An open and accountable secret service might please the freedom of information lobby, but it will not give value for money

On Monday, *The Times* disclosed that M15 and M16 were to suffer a "value-for-money audit". Their annual budgets will be public, the National Audit Office will oversee their books and MPs will get a chance to do the same. This is a triumph for open government: a triumph too for the secret services that long to come in from the cold, to prove their worth and receive democracy's warm embrace of thanks.

I assume that somebody is joking. "Value-for-money" is a phrase like "mission statement" and "performance related pay": private sector jargon borrowed by the civil service and rendered meaningless. In the case of espionage it is especially so. The essence of a secret service is secrecy. It can be statutory but cannot "answer" to the public, except by burbling. If the democratic state must regrettably behave underhandedly either towards its own citizens or towards foreigners, then surely underhanded should mean underhanded. Secret is not a relative term. It is absolute. A spy can no more be part secret than part virgin.

At present the spending of the secret security services is controlled by the Treasury, vetted by a committee of permanent secretaries under Sir Robin Butler. The Treasury is notoriously mean, especially where there is no cabinet or parliamentary pressure for extra spending. I doubt if M15 and M16 are Whitehall's biggest wastrels. Now the NAO is to look at details, for instance, of staff and buildings. It might query a rent bill or suggest lead-free petrol. But value for money? How is the NAO to judge that without any measure of output?

The output of British espionage is a book each week that goes to a few privileged recipients from the Cabinet Office joint intelligence committee (JIC). This can be among Whitehall's more gripping reads. Harold Wilson called it his "weekly real-life James Bond" and Margaret Thatcher devoured it. Others have found it, perhaps off-season, little more use than a newspaper digest. But without knowing the quality of this material, and what other sources might be available, who is to say whether ministers are getting value for money, let alone the public?

At present the chief "redress" against espionage incompetence is crude. It is former spies such as Peter Wright spilling the beans. John Le Carré was

scathing in this paper last month on the postwar performance of M15 and M16, in both of which he served. He dismissed M16's Cold War record as "dismal", penetrated and outgunned by the Russians time and again. M15 "spent a fortune monitoring unilateral disarmers and anti-nuclear groups". Le Carré was sceptical whether M15 was street-wise enough for its new job, fighting IRA bombers in mainland Britain. The public would presumably continue the catalogue of predictive failures in Iran, the Falklands and Kuwait, the impotence in Northern Ireland.

Greater publicity is sure to increase these charges, but who is to judge whether they are fair or unfair? Raw intelligence — such as the naval signals monitored by GCHQ before the Falklands invasion — is useless without good JIC analysis. Good analysis is useless unless those impressionists of crisis, government ministers, take it in. Most just read the files, stary eyed with excitement, and murmur, "Oh good" or "Oh dear". I cannot believe any is experienced enough to know if he is being sold a pup or given a terrific deal.

So what else? There are only two extreme forms of discipline for any body corporate. It either goes out of business or, if it belongs to the government, it suffers public obloquy. Whether ministers have ever considered disbanding M15 or M16, I do not know. Presumably some espionage could be, possibly is, contracted out. If Whitehall can use private security guards, why not freelance spies? M15 last year beat the Special Branch for the intelligence "contract" against the IRA. Will it challenge the Serious Fraud Office for the serious fraud contract? As for M16, there is no shortage of "confidential" material sold by agencies to international companies. Most newspaper foreign desks could produce a digest of unpublished titbits and predictions from round

the world; not as good as M16 perhaps, but it might offer better value for money. If value-for-money is not to be tested in the market place where is it to be tested? American experience is mixed. The most effective monitor is the president's Intelligence Oversight Board, a legacy of the Watergate days. Composed of experts and laymen it is supposedly privy to all executive orders going to the CIA and other covert agencies.

Separate oversight comes from the House and Senate intelligence committees. These are of 15 members each, have more than 100 staff and are targets of lobbying both by the agencies and by outside lobbyists and freedom of information enthusiasts.

Such committees have certainly restored the status of the CIA, the National Security Agency and the Pentagon intelligence operations. They are briefed on budgets and staffing and on operational policy. Though sworn to secrecy on active operations, the mere existence of such political oversight can distort priorities and intensify Washington's ceaseless agency rivalry. Nor did such oversight forestall Iran-Contra or give warning of the invasion of Kuwait. The openness of American intelligence was one reason why Henry Kissinger and later Oliver North set up private and unmonitored "back-channels".

Oversight can be taken to extremes, but that does not invalidate it. The danger is that when a secret service starts down the publicity road, it sheds more veils than it ever intended. Each will disclose what most suits its interest. When a real realises, it is induced to leak more. Sir in this stew one cupful of parliamentarians and another of eager journalists, and the pot soon bubbles furiously. We are not dealing here with paltry official secrets but with the stuff of spy thrillers.

A parliamentary intelligence committee will do little but leak inadvertently.

Wool will be pulled over its eyes from day one. Members will be chosen by the whips for their safety. Like the Commons defence committee, fed by the military, a multiparty intelligence committee will fall under the glamour of its subject. The Treasury will be faced with yet another lobbyist for money.

I believe the best way to monitor the secret services is quite different. It is by means of regular enquiries into specific incidents, sometimes public, sometimes private but always with published reports. Much the best postmortem on British intelligence performance since the war was that of Lord Franks on the Falklands invasion. Read between the lines, his report was a fascinating guide to the British way of crisis mismanagement. Another, dissimilar glimpse of the intelligence services at work is on its way from the grossly inflated Scott enquiry into Matrix Churchill. (Franks will have the edge as a shrewd layman rather than a judge inclined to lose sight of the wood for the trees.)

Here were two incidents involving the secret services that were already of public interest. The Franks report was worth volumes of parliamentary enquiry, Kuwait and the fall of the Berlin wall should not. How much did the government know — and ignore? As in the Falklands, the outcome might show the principal fault as lying not with the intelligence gatherers but with analysis and decision.

Such occasional explosions of sharp, piercing light mean far more than the tepid oversight of a Commons committee. Espionage is a career whose occupational hazard is sometimes to overstep the mark of propriety. The chiefs of M15 and M16 may choose to tease the public with a little information, but they run a risk. If phones are being tapped, foreign firms infiltrated and taxpayers' millions spent abroad, somebody needs to be assured that the game is worth the candle. Ministers are too busy, MPs too lax, the courts too expensive. I would go for a periodic, retrospective "Franks" enquiry, with no sanction beyond that of shame. Espionage is not a democratic activity, not even a parliamentary one. It is secret, sinister and unusual. A shrewd democracy is alert to this and invents oversight that is unusual too.

## The price to be paid for lower taxes

Michael Portillo  
on the need to cut public spending

Current debate over the role of the state and the management of the public finances highlights the need for politicians to set out clearly the principles on which they base decisions on important issues. Unless they do, it is hard for the nation to have an informed debate and even harder for ministers to gain public acceptance for their actions.

So, today, people are asking: how can a party that fought an election promising low taxation now refuse to rule out increasing taxes in the Budget?

Conservatives believe that the size and scope of the state have grown too large and must be reduced. We also believe that sound management of public finances is a fundamental duty of government. The experience of the 1980s demonstrates that those twin beliefs are soundly based. Margaret Thatcher made some progress in the task of cutting back the size of the state and public finances were brought under control. Those two successes contributed to the reversal of a national decline.

John Major's government today faces two tasks which are frequently confused by commentators. One, the short-term task, is to bring down government borrowing in order to provide the stable economic conditions required for a sustained increase in national prosperity. Too much state borrowing crowds out the private sector, can put pressure on interest rates, passes a burden of debt to future generations and may require higher taxes to pay the interest. This last is of real concern because Conservatives know that economies function best when taxation is low. We raise taxes only with the greatest reluctance.

The second vital task is to reduce the proportion of national income spent by the government: in other words, to cut down the size of the state. In 1960 the state consumed around 30 per cent of GDP. Today it consumes about 45 per cent. Too many people now look to the state to do too many things for them. Even if we were running a balanced budget, I would wish to see the growth in public spending curbed.

These two tasks are often confused because both involve constraining public expenditure. Conservative Way Forward said last week that it would be a "top out" to deal with the borrowing problem by tax rises alone. I entirely agree. We must first control public spending. But we need to reduce borrowing quickly, whereas reversing trends in public spending will take some years. We must be robust in constraining public spending, but even so cannot rule out revenue-raising measures. The Chancellor may judge in November that borrowing is not being cut fast enough. Failure to reduce borrowing could lead to a permanent increase in national indebtedness which could be addressed only by permanently higher taxes, thus increasing the reach of the state.

The spending remit the government has set itself reflects what is feasible, in terms of public acceptability and of parliamentary time. Most reductions in spending require altering policies, which means legislation.

The government's spending plans aim for no real increase in the control total, its measure of public spending, between this year and next and next year and the year after. "Not tough enough," say some critics. Well, tougher than Mrs Thatcher's record during the 1980s and tougher than it seems. Within this constraint the biggest budgets are rising well ahead of inflation.

Social Security is increasing year after year by more than 3 per cent in real terms. The number of students in higher education has almost doubled in the last five years, and the recession, which has hit the level of parental contributions, leaves the state paying more grants. We are committed to real increases for the NHS. Extra prisons are expensive. The Common Agricultural Policy costs the taxpayer much more and the legal aid budget is still rising despite the unpopular measures we have taken to control it.

There is nothing "wet" about our present public spending target. It will require very difficult decisions if we are to rein back the increases in "demand-led" programmes and, to the extent that we cannot do so in the short term, to make offsetting savings elsewhere. And that will be just the beginning. We have to continue to re-examine the role of the state, and keep asking where its spending is outmoded or unaffordable. In February, the government instituted a series of expenditure reviews to ask why the public sector spends what it does, and from which areas it could disentangle itself. The first reviews are looking at the departments of social security, health, education and the Home Office. It is perfectly obvious that there are enormous commitments in those areas on which government will not renge.

If the economy is growing, reducing the size of the state is made easier. Provided we can keep the lid on public spending, an increase in GDP gives the result we want: a smaller state as a proportion of national income. That was the success of the 1980s. The task in the 1990s is much more difficult. Growth may not be as fast, and much of what could be sold to reduce the size of the state has already been sold. Hard choices will have to be made.

Our goal is a low tax economy. Low taxes enhance international competitiveness. But we cannot sustain such an economy unless the size of the state is cut back and public finances are maintained on a sound footing.

The author is Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

## Still no Eyre apparent

IT IS now more than two months since Lord Rix resigned as chairman of the Arts Council's drama panel. Still, however, no successor has been found.

It looks as if it will be a long search. Paul Allen, playwright and *Kaleidoscope* presenter, who has been standing in since Rix's departure, says he wouldn't recommend the job to anyone. When he took it on in June he was told he would be free of the responsibility by next month's council meeting. Now that is out of the question.

"It would be terrific fun during a time of expansion," he says, "but telling people that you cannot give them anything is no fun at all. I hope the new chairman will take over soon."

The Arts Council has submitted its suggestions for Rix's successor to Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, but so far has had no response. Sources say the suggestions are likely to include "creative people" such as Adrian Noble of the RSC and Richard Eyre of the National Theatre.

Whether such luminaries will take the job is, however, unlikely. The role is unpaid and will involve, over the next months, explaining to unfortunate theatres why their grant has been cut. The actor Sir Ian McKellen, who says

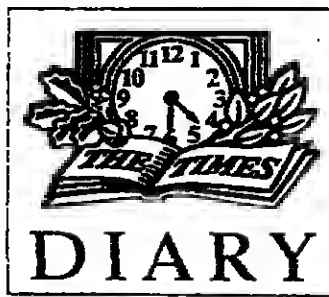
he would refuse the post if offered, puts his money on Eyre. "He would be brilliant and would stick up for the arts."

Sam Mendes, artistic director of the Donmar Warehouse, believes the job should go to either Nicholas Wright, in charge of new writing at the National Theatre, or Michael Auerborough, the RSC's executive producer. "It needs someone who has been in the position of holding out the begging bowl: not a money man with no knowledge of the theatre."

**Thrown a line**

A ROYAL NAVY captain from Chichester has stepped into the breach on behalf of the Princess Rival's husband, Commander Timothy Laurence, after reading how he is descended from Edward III in the *Genealogists' Magazine*. Reassuring though it was to discover that Laurence had his own royal connections, Captain Hugh Owen, R.N., was appalled to read the path of descent. The magazine had traced Laurence's lineage through John Beaufort, a grandson of Edward III who held the status of bastard for 25 years before he was legitimised with the assent of Parliament in 1397.

"May I... make so bold as to



suggest a more honourable descent from the same king for my fellow naval officer." Owen pleads in the current issue of the magazine. He outlines an "untainted" descent from Edward III which avoids illegitimates and connects him with Harry Hoispur, "tutor to Henry V, a doughty warrior and the people's idol". Laurence is delighted. Owen says, "I've had a very nice letter from him thanking me for defending his honour."

**Peregrine hawk**

"WE SHOULD acknowledge the right of the people to bear and carry guns," wrote the celebrated contrarian Sir Peregrine Worsthorne in last weekend's *Sunday Telegraph*. "Who will be the first to realise the value of armed Essex man?" he continued in a article headlined "More guns, more safety for Britons".

But how would Worsthorne fare in the son of post-Med Max Britain he describes? Friends are concerned, recalling his reaction some years ago to the sight of blood in a St John's Wood restaurant when a fellow diner's head was gashed by a falling curtain pole. "He went a pale shade of white and fled," says the unfortunate victim. "Perry has a romantic, Scarlet Pimpernel side to him. He sees himself currying firearms, with a swagger, but it might be a question of the imagination not quite matching up to the reality."

**Jagged edge**

THE cult 1960s film *Performance*, directed by Donald Cammell and Nicolas Roeg and starring Mick Jagger and James Fox, is finally to

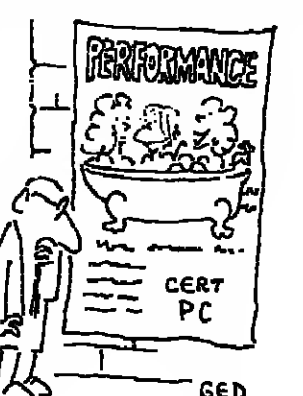
be given a national release — 25 years after its completion. Back in 1968 Warner Brothers considered the film too inflammatory to be screened. Two years later they briefly released, screening the film for three weeks in one London cinema. Not until the early 1980s did it reach a wider art house audience.

David Cammell, the film's associate producer, is delighted the film will now be shown nationwide. "Warners were expecting a nice, cosy, Beatles-type picture. They were furious when they saw it. After the screening in Los Angeles one of the Warner executives went out to the back lot with a spade, threatening to bury the film."

**Gates of wrath**

RISKING the ire of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths, which compared the gate made for the Queen Mother to "something out of Disneyland", St John's College, Oxford, has gone ahead and commissioned a new gate — from a jeweller.

Designed by Wendy Ramshaw, better known for her whorled earrings, the gate will breach an ancient wall separating the college garden from the Garden Quadrangle, a new hall of residence built on the site of the late, lamented Agricultural Sciences faculty.



سكز من الامم











# OBITUARIES

## BRIGADIER JOHN PACKARD

Brigadier John Packard, Army intelligence officer, died on August 15 aged 83. He was born on May 14, 1910.

FOR a period of thirty years, in which the strategic threat changed from being Nazi Germany to our former wartime ally the Soviet Union, John Packard was one of the most valuable intelligence assets at the British Army's disposal. Had the cast-iron proof of Germany's military build-up on the Western front in 1940 which he made available been listened to by Britain's political leadership, the disaster of the Battle of France might have been avoided. But through a string of distinguished visitors to the BEF and the French armies in the spring of 1940 was repeatedly told of the increase in German strength to well over a hundred divisions, neither Parliament nor the British people was informed.

Packard combined great brilliance as a linguist — he was fluent in German, French, Russian, Hindi, Urdu and Pashto — with an unusual ability to sink himself into the background of whatever national community he was operating in. In the 1930s he had been able to mingle unobtrusively with the fanatical enthusiasts who thronged the Nazi rallies. During the "phony war" he chose to live in a French rather than a British army mess, a fact which led to close liaison and valuable intelligence exchanges between the two allies. Later, in Burma, his knowledge of Indian languages and his sensitivity to tribal politics created, likewise, intelligence of a very high order.

But his military career was not devoted purely to intelligence. He also thrived for action and saw active service in both Burma and Korea. John Packard was born in Belfast where his father was serving in the RAMC. When his father was posted to the Rhineland with the British army of occupation in 1921 Packard attended a local Houtpitschule. There, over the next three years of his father's posting, he became fluent in German.

His own military career began in the ranks of the Middlesex Regiment. But he subsequently went to Sandhurst and was commissioned into the East Yorkshire Regiment. In the early 1930s during periods of service in various parts of India, including the North-west Frontier, he acquired Hindi/Urdu as well as Pashto (one of the two principal Afghan languages) and Russian.

By the mid-1930s, however, the Soviet threat to the British Empire via



Afghanistan was taking second place in military thinking to the Hitler menace. Packard had already spent six months leave from regimental service in Graz in 1935-36 observing the political climate of that pro-Nazi Austrian city. He was now employed by the War Office to report on Wehrmacht expansion under the Hitler regime.

For three months in 1938 he lived with a German family in Berlin, reporting what he saw to the British assistant military attaché. Not daring to commit anything to paper, he checked every garrison for troop movements, while at the same time attending many Nazi rallies. Later in Heidelberg where he went, ostensibly on a language course, he lodged opposite an SS barracks mingling with the unit's troopers in pavement cafés and learning a good deal from loose talk. With no other cover but that of a British officer on leave, he would not have had a leg to stand on had his real purpose been guessed at by the SS.

In the spring of 1939 he was able to abandon this cloak-and-dagger existence for that of an official observer at Hungarian army manoeuvres on the

Czechoslovak border just before Hitler's entry into Prague. When the British Expeditionary Force went to France in 1939 Packard went with it as part of an intelligence team reporting on German army deployments. His standing as an authority on the Wehrmacht was such that he was asked to give daily briefings to the BEF's commander, Lord Gort, at General Headquarters at Arras. Living as he did in a French mess, he was able to bring to these briefings the best of French intelligence, greatly adding to their value since the French Army was in direct contact with the Germans on parts of its front. Alas, notwithstanding the steady stream of British government ministers who also attended these briefings, warnings of a massive German build-up in the west, after the defeat of Poland, went unheeded.

Back in Britain after Dunkirk Packard led an investigation team which interrogated 200 German POWs who had been captured during the Battle of France. Subsequently he went to Ireland where he set up and commanded a tactical school. Among his trainees were veterans of the

recently lost Norwegian campaign to whom he taught modern infantry tactics and arctic warfare.

After further home service he was posted to Assam where Slim's 14th Army was preparing to sustain the Japanese thrust into India. As GSIO in Assam, Packard's knowledge of Indian languages was invaluable in organising weapon training and raising morale among the local tribesmen. During the desperate struggle for Imphal in the spring of 1944 he flew several times into the beleaguered town.

But, though he was a fine staff officer, he pined for action and was, by the spring of 1945, allowed to take command of the 1st Battalion East Yorkshires just after the Battle of Meiktila. He commanded it on the advance to Rangoon until the end of the war in the Far East.

After the war he served in staff appointments on the Military Security Board in Berlin and Koblenz, and on the Allied Control Commission for Austria. But with the coming of the 1950s he was back on active service, and saw some brisk fighting in Korea.

His final Army appointment was also one of the most delicate he had to undertake. In 1960 he was appointed chief of the British Military Mission to the Soviet commander in Germany, based at Potsdam. Although the mission was accredited to the Soviet forces, its cars were followed by East German Stasi agents wherever they went. This officiousness caused several unpleasant incidents. On one occasion Packard's car and an accompanying vehicle were blocked in, front and rear, by Stasi cars and then attacked by the East German agents with sticks and stones. Packard and his staff were pulled out and roughed up, while their cars were searched. On another occasion an East German border guard shot and wounded one of Packard's staff. Shortly afterwards Packard returned home.

In retirement Packard served from 1961 as head of information of Fison's in Suffolk, where he was also active on the local district council. But in 1970, in poor health, he moved to London to flat in the Barbican. He continued in public life as a Common Councilman of the City of London and was a sidesman at St Giles Cripplegate. He was also a member of the "Cogers" debating society in Fleet Street.

He leaves his widow Faith (who had served in the ATS in the war and been one of its youngest personnel to serve on the General Staff at the War Office) and their four sons and a daughter.

## MARTIN FAGG

Martin Fagg, schoolmaster and champion weekend competition winner, died of heart disease at Wareham, Dorset, on August 16 aged 64. He was born on May 15, 1929.

TO SEE Martin Fagg in his full glory one had to be present at one of the Christmas parties that weekly periodicals used to give for those who most regularly triumphed in their literary competitions. In an array of talent — the guests were expected to wear labels revealing their various *noms de plume* — the quiet, short-sighted schoolmaster from Chichester invariably stood out. With more name-tags across his chest than anyone else, he could have been mistaken for a Bolivian general.

The conventional wisdom might, of course, be that it was a tragedy that a man of such wide reading and inventive gifts never produced a major work of his own. But this was to miss the point. The essence of Fagg's talent lay in its diversity.

Martin Fagg was born in Bromley, which was his parents' home and remained his base until he moved to Chichester. He went to Bromley County School for Boys and from there to Oxford, where he read English at Worcester College, later taking a Diploma in Education.

He enjoyed a varied teaching career, including some time in America and two years in New Zealand. Subsequently, he taught at the King's School, Worcester, and finally moved to Chichester as head of the English Department at the Boys' High School, continuing to live there following his retirement. In his last years, though, he acquired a house in Wareham, which he visited frequently.

He was an outstanding teacher, an excellent communicator, not only with those who shared his interests and were academically bright, but also with other difficult and slower pupils whom he inspired with his love of literature.

Towards the end of his time (during which the school had changed from a grammar school to a comprehensive) he engaged in a series of "retirements" after leaving officially, neatly fitting in the requests to help for a term or two with the trips abroad to which he had become addicted. (He was able to indulge more liberally in these once his various Nellie Melba farewell were over.)

Cards would arrive from every corner of the globe, sometimes followed by the confession that he had acquired a stake in the country concerned — a wild patch of Scotland, a flat in Cape Town. Meanwhile, he had established himself in a number of concurrent careers, in which his wide knowledge of history and literature was well used. He reviewed extensively for the *Times Educational Supplement* and the *Church Times*, ran courses in creative writing and lectured on literary subjects at the Old Rectory, Fittleworth.

But the absorbing occupation of his spare time for many years was his contribution to the literary compendium pages of the *New Statesman*, *The Spectator* and the *TES* (later judging for that paper under the alias of "Charybdis").

Martin Fagg was, arguably, the champion competitor of all time, submitting an extraordinary variety of parodies, pastiches, and original pieces under his own name and an extensive range of pseudonyms (reputedly fourteen of them). It was not unusual for three of these to feature in a clutch of four prize-winners. Together with his fellow-competitors he contributed over the years to the comic collections of E. O. Parrott. (*How to be Ridiculously Well Read in One Evening* etc) and poems of his were also included in Kenneth Baker's *Unauthorised Versions* and *The Oxford Book of Light Verse* as well as other anthologies.

His prose parodies (Dickens, Chekhov, C. P. Snow et al) were equally brilliant; he also contributed to the BBC's "Morning Story".

He was keenly interested in the theatre and in music, building up an impressive library of LPs and expressing delight at the frequent bargains he managed to secure. He was particularly devoted to opera and greatly enjoyed playing Wagner *fortissimo* as well as discussing the finer points of live and recorded performances with other enthusiasts.

Although he never married, Martin Fagg was a man with many friends. Guaranteed to enliven any party, he enjoyed his role as a popular guest. Many who met him for the first time would never have guessed that he was prone to cyclical depression; it seemed particularly sad that his recent recovery from a severe depressive bout was followed by the discovery of the heart condition from which he died.

## DR J. S. HAMILTON

J. S. Hamilton, the doctor who dealt with the penultimate smallpox outbreak in Britain, died on August 11 aged 76. He was born on March 12, 1917.



TO HAVE been appointed to the post of medical officer of health in a city famed for its high death rate and above-average level of sickness was to face a daunting task. But to contain an outbreak of smallpox there as well might be seen as mission impossible. Dr Joseph Stewart Hamilton not only did both — he did more.

J. S. Hamilton — as he preferred to be titled — was appointed deputy medical officer in pollution-ridden Stoke-on-Trent in 1950, and became medical officer of health three years later. At the time of his arrival the city was plagued by pea-soup smogs which emanated from its numerous belching pottery kilns. Dubbed the unofficial pollution capital of Britain, Stoke-on-Trent's ceramic industry was responsible for the early deaths of thousands of people. The local joke was that it was only possible to photograph the Potteries in Wakes week.

Hamilton was appalled by the situation and was actively involved in the introduction of the first Clean Air Act, which was passed in 1956. By 1974, 50 per cent of the city was a smoke controlled zone and death rates had been reduced dramatically.

But before that the Five Towns had been through one bad scare. On May 9, 1966, Hamilton issued a message to the people of Stoke-on-Trent gripped by the terror of Britain's penultimate smallpox outbreak. "Don't Panic," says Dr J. S. Hamilton "read the front-page headline of the local evening paper. Hamilton helped to trace the source of the outbreak — a photographer, who was a frequent visitor to a shop in Walsall — and his findings subsequently appeared in a report in the medical journal, *The Lancet*. The photographer

had continued to visit the shop in February while he had a profuse rash on his face. A shop assistant then reported she had a similar rash. The infection spread when the young woman visited a youth club.

From other youth club members the disease passed on to their families. From Willenhall and Blythe Bridge, where the photographer and his parents lived, the infection spread to Stoke-on-Trent where the photographer's father met up with a friend. A total of 23 cases were reported throughout the outbreak of whom 14 were detained in hospital. None proved fatal.

Hamilton in his wisdom decided not to be panicked into setting up a mass vaccination programme, although he did insist on the vaccination of all contacts of the people affected. He quarantined the suspects in local hospitals and, nearly ten weeks after the first case, North Staffordshire was given the all clear.

Born in Scotland, Joseph Stewart Hamilton graduated at Aberdeen University, where he met his future wife Lena, a nurse. The couple married while in Cairo, where they were both serving during the second world war. After his arrival in the Potteries, Hamilton set about a slum-clearance programme which resulted in 15,500 new houses being built, and, in the words of one of his former colleagues at the time of his retirement in 1987, "the improvement of the lives of more than a quarter of a million people".

He is survived by his wife and their two sons and a daughter, all three of whom became doctors after studying medicine at the same medical college as their father.

In addition to the son mentioned in the obituary of George Keyt (August 23), he is survived by two daughters, Diana Beirne-Keyt and Flavia C. Keyt.

## ETHELWYNN TREWAVAS

Ethelwynn Trewavas, one of the world's experts on fishes, died at her home in Reading on August 16 aged 92. She was born on November 5, 1900.

"ET", as she was affectionately known, was a dedicated ichthyologist with a worldwide scientific reputation. One of the first three women to be appointed to the staff of the British Museum (Natural History), and eventually head of the Fish Section, her contacts led to friendships around the world and her work involved foreign travel, particularly to African lakes and rivers to study their fishes.

Her scientific achievements included fundamental research into Anura (frogs), deep sea fishes, and the remarkable species flocks of endemic cichlids in African lakes. She wrote over 100 meticulously researched scientific contributions, culminating in a large definitive book on tilapia cichlids, important food fishes throughout the tropics, both in natural waters and cultured in fishponds. Her work on the systematic relationships of cichlids and other fishes, is basic for studies of mechanisms of evolution and for

understanding biodiversity. Born in Cornwall of Cornish stock, Ethelwynn Trewavas was educated at St Paul's School, Penzance, and at West Cornwall College for Girls. In 1921 she graduated with honours in zoology at University College, Reading. In 1925 she gained a University of London research scholarship which she held at King's College for Women (Household and Social Sciences), though her research subject, chosen after consultation with Dr Tate Regan and Dr H. W. Parker at the British Museum (Natural History), was on the anatomy of frogs.

When he was later appointed director of the Natural History Museum, Tate Regan needed a research assistant. ET started on this work in 1928, though she was not on the established staff until a vacancy in the Fish Section occurred in 1935 (she then joined the first two women staff members appointed in 1928-29).

Her early work with Tate Regan was on the "Dana" collection of deep sea fishes, made during the Danish expedition on which Johannes Schmidt established the life-

history of the European eel; and from which she described remarkable deep sea angler fishes with telescopic eyes. Her next assignment was to study the Christy collections of chichlid fishes brought back from Lakes Nyasa (Malawi) and Tanganyika. This led her



to a lifelong love affair with the evolution of chichlid fishes in African lakes, which provide the world's best examples of intralacustrine vertebrate evolution.

In 1938 when the Colonial Office mounted a fisheries survey of Lake Nyasa as part

of a nutrition survey, ET joined John Borley and Kate Ricardo (later Bertram) for four months on the lake. The survey was interrupted by the second world war, during which time the Natural History Museum's type specimens had to be moved away from London air raids, involving much reorganisation of the national collections. ET also took over the compilation of the fishes section of the *Zoological Record*.

At this time ET also became honorary secretary of the Council of Women Civil Servants, a group of senior women civil servants campaigning for removal of the marriage bar for women in government and civil service, equal opportunity and equal pay for equal work (objectives finally gained at a later date).

In 1945 ET was appointed a member of the Fisheries Advisory Committee to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. For several years she helped train fishery officers appointed to overseas territories. This also led to overseas visits: in 1947 she spent two months in Nigeria advising the fisheries development unit and it was here she became interested in grey mullets (important food

fishes). In 1965 she visited Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi, which resulted in many scientific papers and help to fisheries officers.

In 1970 ET accompanied Professor Jim Green and her niece Sally Corbet (both of Westfield College, London) to the Cameroon lakes where they discovered flocks of chichlid species that had evolved in small crater lakes. In 1981 she visited the Kenyan Bamburi tilapia culture station; despite her 81 years she took to goggling and fish-watching, balanced precariously in a small canoe along the reef edge.

In 1985 she returned to Lake Malawi in connection with the book on Malawian chichlid fishes produced with David Eccles in 1989. In later years she gave much help to aquarists, appreciating how their observations on fish behaviour illuminate biological problems.

ET was a member of many scientific societies. The Linnean Society of London awarded her their Gold Medal in 1968, and elected her a fellow *honoris causa* in 1991. In the same year she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Stirling. More than a dozen fish species have been named in her honour. ET set the highest standards of scholarship, and she was always generous with her time to help others. Very conscientious but with a great sense of humour, she completed much of her research purely for the interest and fun of it after her official "retirement".

ET never married, but is survived by her sister, Sylvia March, whose home she shared.

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### ON THIS DAY

#### August 25 1938

#### THE FINAL TEST MATCH

#### ON THIS DAY

#### August 25 1938

#### THE FINAL



On the eve of the Edinburgh International Television Festival, BBC2 unveils its response to the challenge from

# Behind the man from Auntie

The new autumn schedule launched this week by Michael Jackson, boy wonder of television and recently appointed controller of BBC2, bears the hallmarks of a man bred in the television age.

As well as a smattering of revivals, such as *The Wednesday Play* where many of today's leading programme makers cut their teeth in highly politically charged one-off dramas, the new schedule will also introduce some novelties, such as a series of 90-second poetry programmes between the main shows.

It is Mr Jackson's first schedule since becoming controller of BBC2 in April at the age of 35, and it could not have been better timed. BBC2 is facing the biggest challenge in its 29-year history from its main rival, Channel 4. Since the start of Channel 4's separation from ITV in January of this year, when it began to sell its own advertising (for the first ten years of its life, ITV sold Channel 4's advertising and paid the new channel a subscription in return), the channel has unexpectedly increased its audience share from an average of about 10 per cent last year to 11 or 12 per cent — close to the 12 or 13 per cent regularly commanded by BBC2.

Looking relaxed as he prepares to chair the Edinburgh Television Festival this weekend, Mr Jackson is clearly relishing the prospect of a sustained spat with Channel 4.

**Alexandra Freen  
talks to Michael  
Jackson as he  
launches BBC2's  
autumn season**

A cynical interpretation might be that as one of the campaigners for the creation of Channel 4 in 1982, and as one of the station's first programme makers — he was commissioned to produce his first show for it at the age of 24 — he cannot help but feel quite pleased at its healthy ratings. More importantly, however, the relative success of Channel 4 is imperative to Mr Jackson's view of the long-term future of television in Britain. "I see this as the age of minority television," he says.

Despite the mushrooming in Britain of satellite television stations offering a staple diet of programmes imported from America, Mr Jackson believes that there is still a huge demand for traditional network stations offering a mix of programme types. Far from being pessimistic about the new competition, Mr Jackson says he is encouraged by it. He believes that, against the backdrop of the new

channels, demand for the type of material originated by BBC2 and Channel 4 will remain firm.

"British audiences have not shown a huge appetite for imported American television programmes. They just do not work in British schedules," he says.

Mr Jackson is acutely aware of the sensitivities of viewers. "Times have changed since we all sat reverentially in front of the box, curtains drawn, bathed in its blue glow, like a scene from a Steven Spielberg film. Television audiences now feel more in control."

This slightly romantic image betrays Mr Jackson's own emotional attachment to television. He embraced it with wide-eyed enthusiasm as a child in Macclesfield, Cheshire, in the 1960s and has remained devoted to it ever since. He can still quote *ITV's* Wednesday night schedule from 1972 and seems genuinely surprised that contemporaries cannot.

"I grew up in a quiet environment and was intrigued by television. There was this thing in the corner of the room, full of static. It was enormous — an extraordinary time," he says. "You could see politicians learning about television: people were having to learn the grammar of the medium as it grew and developed. The early Frost programmes were full of a raw energy that we have completely lost today." Television has grown



Michael Jackson, controller of BBC2. "I just get a sense for what I want to watch — and then do it"

up and so has its audience. Not only have today's viewers become more sophisticated, Mr Jackson says, but they are increasingly technologically literate and interested in writing their own schedules, either by using their video recorders, which allow them to choose when to watch, or by "gazing", dipping in and out of

programmes. "In future, there will be two kinds of television. The themed cable and satellite channels on the one hand, and on the other, traditional stations, such as BBC2, that concentrate on more than just one genre," he says.

This may sound like wishful thinking, but Mr Jackson points out that even in America, where

dozens of cable and satellite channels have been available for years, the three main networks — NBC, CBS and ABC — still command 60 per cent of the audience.

viewing is very old fashioned. What matters more now is to consider whether a station has offered one programme of value to watch during the course of an evening.

But then, doesn't Mr Jackson have the advantage of controlling a channel, which is not meant to be popular? Rubbish, he says. "Minority does not necessarily mean small. Many programmes such as *Top Gear* [BBC2's motoring show] are watched by more than five million people."

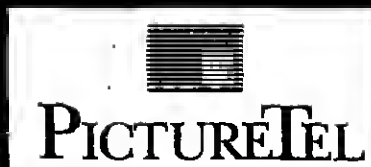
Mr Jackson believes that by combining stalwarts such as *Top Gear* with a few quality cult strands dug up from the past and reworked, such as *The Wednesday Play* or the *Scene Series* of dramas for schools television, mixed with new formats such as his 90-second *Poems on the Box* programmes, he can meet the competition from Channel 4 head on and avoid conflict with the new satellite broadcasters. He envisages more programmes on leisure and a greater emphasis on themed seasons of programming. One new development will be joint seasons with BBC1.

It is a strategy based on an instinct for what makes good television. Although he professes reverence for research and statistics and has a reputation, unusual in the industry, for listening to other people's ideas, Mr Jackson admits that his best ideas are purely instinctive. (BBC2's *TV Hell*, an evening of television's worst programmes shown last year, was born out of one such flash.) "I just get a sense for what I want to watch — and then do it," he says.

As the BBC faces growing criticism for falling ratings and potentially explosive competition from a multiplicity of new commercial channels, that may seem an unscientific approach. You cannot help, but suspect, however, that it might just work.

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حکومت پاکستان



## Channel 4: Russian screens are filled with sex and violence from the West; and pensioners seek cut-price television

After 70 years of censorship, the Russians are enjoying the worst excesses of television and cinema in the West, especially the sex and violence in films such as *Reservoir Dogs*, left, and *Body of Evidence*

Russia is undergoing a massive Thatcherite cultural revolution. Indeed, last month Baroness Thatcher received an honorary doctorate there. Even in the far flung Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, the sports hall houses an exhibition of Romanian furniture, while in the marble-clad museum, the statue of Lenin gazes on an array of Bosch refrigerators. Everything is for sale. For Britons facing intense commercialisation of radio and television, there are lessons from Russian media. Lightly censored, they are now controlled only by old habits and market forces. In a state in which the word was a main tool of totalitarianism, people gave their lives for freedom of speech. Now newspapers and books survive through their ability to attract advertising or to sell in large quantities. *De facto* economic censorship has replaced the political: at least 50 important manuscripts can find no publisher. They circulate in typescript like the *samizdat* of old.

On Russian radio and television, official voices have been replaced by previously banned pop music and high-key commercials, selling products still far out of reach of ordinary Russians. Never having seen advertising before, they are utterly vulnerable to its messages. These are reinforced by the programmes, largely American action films and soap operas, during which the advertisements run along the bottom of the television screen.

Western values are absorbed without a filter: not only Mercedes for the new business mafiosi, but Whiskas and Snickers bars lead pet owners and parents into debt to meet the standards on the screen.

Lady Thatcher once lectured Russians about economic freedom, family values,

## Why must we show this face to Russia?

and free speech. What, then, does she make of the twin signs of liberation, crime and pornography, which appear increasingly in the streets and on television here? This is not unique to Russia. In every Western country, as the number of channels increases, so does the temptation to use sex and violence to attract viewers. Continental television stations abound with soft porn, while cable and video offer harder stuff.

But our commitment to free speech means we must tread carefully when limiting such a basic democratic tenet. In Britain, we do so for our children. We have the 9pm watershed on television, and the British Board of Censors, which draws the final line at the use of children and animals even for videos, as neither can protect themselves from exploitation. No such limits protect Russian children as viewers or as victims.

In marked contrast to our restrictions on sex, we have been astonishingly tolerant towards violence, especially in films, as special effects become more sophisticated. Violence is illegal and harmful — yet it has evolved into a dehumanised sport for video games played even by toddlers. But there is still no clear evidence to support the prime minister's efforts to link violence in the

streets to television. Moreover, British viewers have seen far less than a typical American 12-year-old who has been exposed to 11,000 onscreen murders.

But while pressure mounts to reduce violence on Western television, this is the legacy we have handed the Russians to enjoy after 70 years of censorship. Free to watch action movies and porn, they no longer go to the theatre, ballet, and cinema or read books in huge numbers.

The Russian cinema, which drew millions of all ages and classes to its masterworks, has collapsed. Its best directors cannot raise funds — much as British cinema has yet to recover from the competition of television and American imports.

Here is the conundrum for Western conservatives and liberals alike: freedom of speech in a free market leads millions into a moral vacuum, in which commercial pressures take us away from the aspirations of our education, our religion, our "family values".

In Hollywood today, a Harvard-educated producer previews action films in Waus, a largely black area. If audiences stop shouting at the screen, it means they are

listening to the dialogue — which is bad. The film is meant to achieve still stronger reactions. Extra scenes are added to mainstream feature films. Adventure movies such as *Cliffhanger*, a film with an 18 certificate, contain lengthy scenes of sadism, and racial and sexual stereotypes. We are selling violence as a Western product. Did those of us who fought for cultural freedom, really have this in mind?

Ironically, even while tolerating such brutality in films, we sanitise our news. The violence in Bosnia is far worse than we have seen on British screens. Foreign journalists see British coverage as surprisingly bland, while they regard our drama as lurid. Russian news has taken to "actual" coverage of crime in the streets. They have no limits, and film murder victims live, so to speak. The use of crime as "reality entertainment" has swept American television, and will soon achieve similar prominence in Britain.

What feels especially relevant — and sad — about the Russian experience is the decline of respect for activities not directly connected with money. That is the objection to the marketing ethos in the BBC. The licence fee is intended to avoid commercial pressures. Many joined the BBC to make

programmes for their own sake, not for profit. They believed in Lord Reith's notions of public service even as many Russians believed they were working for the good of the Russian people. Honest and dignified souls on both sides of the former Iron Curtain now feel the new economic reality measures the price of everything but the value of nothing, that new cars, golden handcuffs and commercial spinoffs may be shrewd and legal, but they are not part of a culture of quality that informs, entertains and inspires.

This is the goal of those now running the BBC. They are among the most talented people in British television. But just as the symbolic language of Stalinism was taken seriously in Russia, so are the symbols of capitalism. If we want to promote values that young people — especially those who have nothing — can believe in, we must do more than just censor the violence on our screens. We must set an example.

This deserves a serious national debate (not just among television professionals in Edinburgh, useful though that may be), not to be treated as a political football, in which gut feelings and entrenched opinions on both sides stop us from listening, and if need be, changing our minds. We need to come to grips with what is at stake in the next decade of television. We need more research into the effects of television on young people, and we must urgently restore media education to the national curriculum. It will not do to leave these decisions to the market place, nor to politicians and political appointees who watch little television themselves, and whose judgments are inevitably as limited as their world view.

ROGER GRAEF

## Is TV too much for the old?

What are the arguments for a lower and universal television licence fee for the elderly?

The first centres on justice and need. In terms of income and concessions, British pensioners trail behind their European peers. Ireland, for example, has just granted 95,000 retired people free colour television licences. Our pensioners pay a disproportionate amount of their income on the licence — just imagine the Chancellor asking a young couple for a £450 fee, the equivalent, in earned income, of what pensioners pay for their television licence.

There are those, Age Concern and others (including the government), who believe that the retirement pension should be sufficient to allow independence and freedom from concessions. To this, those campaigning for a lower and universal licence say: "Hear, hear!" but while we are waiting for pigs to fly we have to fill the breach.

The truth is that many elderly people need television. There is more disablement among elderly people than in any other age group and less mobility (the "free" bus pass is a myth). Whatever media zealots claim, there are relatively few Lycra-clad grey panthers leaping through hoops.

True, television viewing is a sedentary pursuit. But it need not be passive. Documentaries, Open University programmes and current affairs keep pensioners in the swim rather than leaving them dead-eyed and dull-witted.

Loneliness is rife among elderly people, and a great number of those who care for them find that snatched moments in front of the television screen relieve their fatigue and isolation.

Those who consider concessions patronising should consider The Savoy Hotel in London, which suffers from the benefit of being able to run 15 television sets with one licence, or Harrods, which pays only a few pounds for running all the sets in the shop.

Many would throw out the idea of a cut in the fee on financial grounds (as Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, has done), yet the cost would not be as bad as many fear, after the rendering down of the fat encasing the BBC.

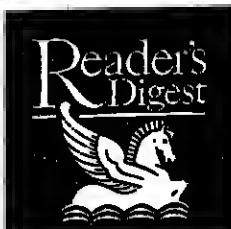
At the moment, only pensioners living in sheltered accommodation run by housing associations can receive the £5 concessionary licence, although a diminishing number of others still enjoy the concession having been granted it under rules which have now changed. If this concession were abolished those who currently receive a concessionary licence would pay a little more, many more would pay less.

Nailing more licence-evaders — very few of them elderly, I would wager — could put another £100 million in the pot.

NEIL PATRICK

● The author is the editor of *Yours* magazine

### MEDIA, SALES & MARKETING



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Stalking trout when the heat is on

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# THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25 1993

BUSINESS EDITOR Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

NEW HABIT

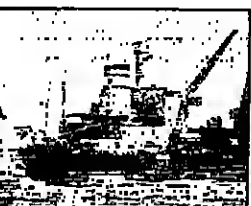


Abbey National is to trade in complex financial derivatives in a joint venture Page 22

FIRM ADVICE

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MERSEY TRADE



Trade with the Republic of Ireland boosted profits at Mersey Docks Page 22

BRAKES ON

Nissan is set to cut production at Sunderland because of the steep fall in European car sales Page 23

**THE POUND**  
US \$ 1.4975 (+0.0072)  
German mark 2.5139 (+0.0256)  
Exchange index 80.7 (-0.7)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

**STOCK MARKET**  
FT-SE 100 3049.3 (+7.3)  
Dow Jones 3615.48 (+9.50)  
Nikkei 20431.84 (+17.70)

**INTEREST RATES**  
London Bank Base 6%  
3-month interbank 5 1/8%  
US Federal Funds 2 1/8%  
3-month Treas Bill 3.00-2.98%  
Long Bond 6.24%

**CURRENCIES**  
New York: London:  
£/\$ 1.4965 £/DM 2.5142  
\$/DM 1.6815 \$/Yen 147.85  
\$/Yen 103.71 £/Yen 155.26  
E.S.D.R. 1.0743 E.C.U. 1.3101  
London Forex market close

**GOLD**  
London Fixing (5):  
AM 372.75 PM 373.65  
Close 373.70-374.20  
New York:  
Comex 372.45-372.95

**RETAIL PRICES**  
RPI 140.7 (July 1.4%)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

## Judge directs jury to acquit stockbrokers

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE Serious Fraud Office lost another important case yesterday after the judge in the TC Coombs trial directed the jury to find the two stockbroker defendants not guilty for lack of evidence.

Andrew Leslie Kent, 46, and Patrick Mahon, 53, from TC Coombs, the collapsed stockbroking firm, were acquitted on two counts of conspiracy to defraud The Securities Association and Mr Mahon was also acquitted on one count of dishonestly attempting to obtain property by deception. His Honour Judge Clark QC told the jury at Middlesex Guildhall in central London to find the defendants not guilty two and half months into the trial.

While Judge Clark said his decision did not represent a criticism of the SFO mainly because new facts revealed during the trial weakened the prosecution case, the loss is still a blow to the SFO, which has been striving to win a critical case after a string of expensive failures.

Costs were awarded to the defendants from the public purse and outside court counsel estimated that the entire cost of the three-year investigation and the trial, which included air fares of witnesses who came from Canada, Australia and Switzerland, would run to "millions of pounds".

The judge also pronounced his support for a self-regulatory regime in the City. He said: "I cannot help thinking

Two stockbroker defendants were acquitted after the judge directed the jury to find them not guilty for lack of evidence more than two months into the trial.

that this sort of enquiry in a case where there has been no financial loss to any individual would be far better left to the regulatory jurisdiction of the appropriate bodies rather than a full blown criminal trial."

The prosecution case alleged the two men had "repeatedly deceived the Securities Association in order to present a quite false picture of the firm's financial position". Michael Birnbaum, QC, for the SFO, alleged the firm had insufficient capital and that substantial debts owed to it had gone unpaid for several years.

TC Coombs had won two tribunal actions in 1988 relating to its capital adequacy. However, a complaint by a Swiss bank, Rahn & Bodmer, in 1990 led to the SFO issuing section 2 notices under the Criminal Justice Act and raiding the TC Coombs premises in the City and also the homes of the two defendants in November 1990.

A former executive of Rahn & Bodmer alleged that a £55 million share transaction on the Vancouver stock exchange, which was the subject of the third count against Mr Mahon, was really a split deal and that TC Coombs had tried to hide this. But there was no

evidence to support this. Moreover, oral evidence from another bank executive of the unrecorded deal was dismissed by the judge in his ruling as "sheer speculation".

Of the two conspiracy counts, the judge said there was no sufficient satisfactory evidence of an agreement between any parties.

The defendants' lawyers said that the judgment proved that TC Coombs had sufficient capital when it was forced to close after the SFO raid when business declined sharply.

The firm was subsequently placed into liquidation in February 1991 after The Securities Association issued a protection order stopping the firm from conducting business.

KPMG Peat Marwick, the liquidator, said yesterday it would be examining the judgment to see if there was any action that could be brought to benefit creditors.

After the judge had made his ruling, Mr Kent's QC, Alan Jones, told the court his client would sue Rahn & Bodmer for defamation and that he would be seeking authorisation again from the relevant regulator. Mr Mahon's solicitors, Peters & Peters, said he was still considering his position.



Sir Ivan Lawrence, MP for Burton, took the reins at the Bass Museum, Burton, yesterday, to open a campaign by Bass Brewers against rises in duty on beers. Bass is staging an exhibition at the museum on the history of beer duty

## Consumers and businesses show increasing signs of optimism

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ACCUMULATING evidence of a slow but steady economic recovery, in particular surprising evidence of falls in unemployment in recent months, is starting to have an impact on the confidence of British consumers and businesses, the key ingredient needed to sustain the upturn.

A clutch of surveys yesterday pointed to improved optimism. Along with figures showing a sharp decline in the number of company liquidations and personal bankruptcies since the early months of this year, they point to an economy gradually returning to health.

KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountant, said that company liquidations had fallen more than 10 per cent in the second quarter, compared with the first, and that personal bankruptcies were down more than 20 per cent on the first quarter. Tim Hayward, KPMG's head of corporate recovery, said that these falls pointed to the beginnings of a return to consumer confidence.

The Gallup survey of consumer confidence showed a marked rise in optimism about economic prospects between July and August, underpinned by a new belief that unemployment is not going to rise over the next few months. Fewer than half of Gallup's respondents predicted a rise in unemployment over the next year, and a fifth said they expected unemployment to fall, much more positive than a month ago and dramatically improved from the balance of

opinion found at the start of the year. The survey also suggested that consumer confidence is robust enough to be translated into actual spending, a necessary component of the recovery. Gallup said that 15 per cent more are now saying that it is the right time to make a big purchase.

This evidence of rising consumer confidence and the receding fear of unemployment found support in a number of business surveys.

National Westminster Bank's quarterly review of activity in the small business sector showed the first positive balance between firms expecting sales turnover to decline and those who expect it to increase since the final quarter of 1990.

On the employment front, there were still more firms reporting a cut in employment than an increase, but expectations about future employment are now, on balance, optimistic.

The gradually improving employment outlook was confirmed by Brook Street, the recruitment specialist, which surveyed industrial companies and found "qualified optimism". Brook Street found that 38 per cent of companies said that they expected to increase their headcount before the end of this year. The survey also found that 43 per cent expected to invest in plant and machinery during the rest of this year.

Touche Ross, the accountant, found that 48 per cent of owner-managed businesses

were intending to take on more staff over the next 12 months, with only 9 per cent expecting to reduce numbers. Touche Ross said that 74 per cent of its respondents were anticipating growth in turnover over the next year.

Sterling suffered against the dollar and the mark, both of which were in demand for their own reasons. The pound's trade-weighted index closed at 80.7, compared with its opening at 81.2 and its close on Monday at 81.4.

It lost more than two pence against the German currency, which was buoyed by

renewed pessimism in the markets about the prospect of a cut in official German rates at tomorrow's Bundesbank council meeting, the first after the summer recess.

Edouard Balladur, the French prime minister, is meeting Helmut Kohl, Germany's Chancellor, tomorrow in Bonn. M. Balladur will present new ideas on resolving the deadlock in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks and propose changes to the deal between the EC and America on reducing subsidies on agricultural exports.

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## A measured response to water metering

Much as customers, suppliers and their shareholders may grumble, as we shall loudly next year, financial regulation of the water industry has so far proved the most competent and professional among utilities. It needs to be when prices are rising steadily in real terms to pay for decades of neglect in the public sector.

Ofwat's secret has lain in the devotion of Ian Byatt, its director general, to thorough preparation and consultation to help get things right and avoid nasty surprises. Water companies rail against all the costly paperwork. Yet Mr Byatt's insistence on the companies consulting customers before revising investment plans for next year's review, showing its worth. As he expected, customers in some areas seem to want the least costly programmes to meet legal requirements. But who would have guessed that customers of Welsh Water wanted noticeably

higher standards even at higher cost, had they not been asked? Or that people in some areas were tolerant of hosepipe bans while others were aghast?

When the plans are agreed, customers may not get what they want but they will be better served than if the companies, Ofwat and the environmental regulators had decided what was good for them in battles conducted behind closed doors. How different from the gas industry.

Even the most rational regimes have their blind spots, however. Mr Byatt has a thing about water meters. You can see his point. For economists, it is illogical and frustrating for a product to have no price to most of its customers, so that normal market signals cannot be passed in either direction. Unmetered customers cannot do anything to cut their own bills. How can regulators know whether costly spending on environmentally sensi-



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

tive new reservoirs, boreholes and ring mains is economically justified? Then there was the poll tax, which doomed rateable values used for household water charges. When water was privatised, a market-oriented government presumed in its prospectus that universal metering would take over. Ofwat took up the baton, pushing metering for all new properties, which had no rateable value. As ever there was also consultation. Ofwat surveys found most people thought metering the fairest system, even if they did not want it themselves. As experience builds up, however, it is clear that the metering idea is fatally flawed.

To start with, as Ofwat itself calculated last year, it would add about 14 per cent to average annual bills, to pay the cost of meters, reading and digging up the roads to install them. The chairman of a big water group, himself an early metering enthusiast, now reckons the cost of providing extra water supplies is much less.

Water companies with a obligation to supply could not, moreover, rely in advance on people cutting metered consumption to save money. In areas short of capacity, where metering stood the best chance of paying for itself in investment savings, they will have to go ahead with long-term projects such as new reservoirs anyway. Customers are in danger of paying twice over.

The supposed charging dilemma has disappeared as fast as the poll tax. When Ofwat commissioned a report from the Institute of Fiscal

Studies on the effects of different charging methods such as metering, a flat licence fee or charges based on household numbers as in the community charge, it produced agonised headlines - provoked by the IFS - that there could be "a second poll tax fiasco".

Not so. The Ofwat study did not envisage using the council tax base. As the IFS more quietly revealed, this would cause scarcely any disruption. Universal metering is not an alternative, as Ofwat now concedes, because it could not be brought in fast enough.

In any case, as voluntary take-up has shown, metering mainly benefits the wealthy. It will spread nonetheless. But if water is to become a priced market like any other, the companies would themselves change their spots. Pricing to ration consumption is one thing. Extra income for extra output should also make companies keen to sell as much as possible.

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# An agenda to improve the financing of small firms

Howard Davies says a framework is needed to help firms maximise their potential, and leave them better able to resist the next recession

The clearing banks' half-yearly results, with a return to profit after the sea of red ink over the past couple of years, showed that the worst of the recession-induced bad debt problem is behind them. The latest statistics on business failures also show that the massacre of small firms in 1991 and 1992 is coming to an end.

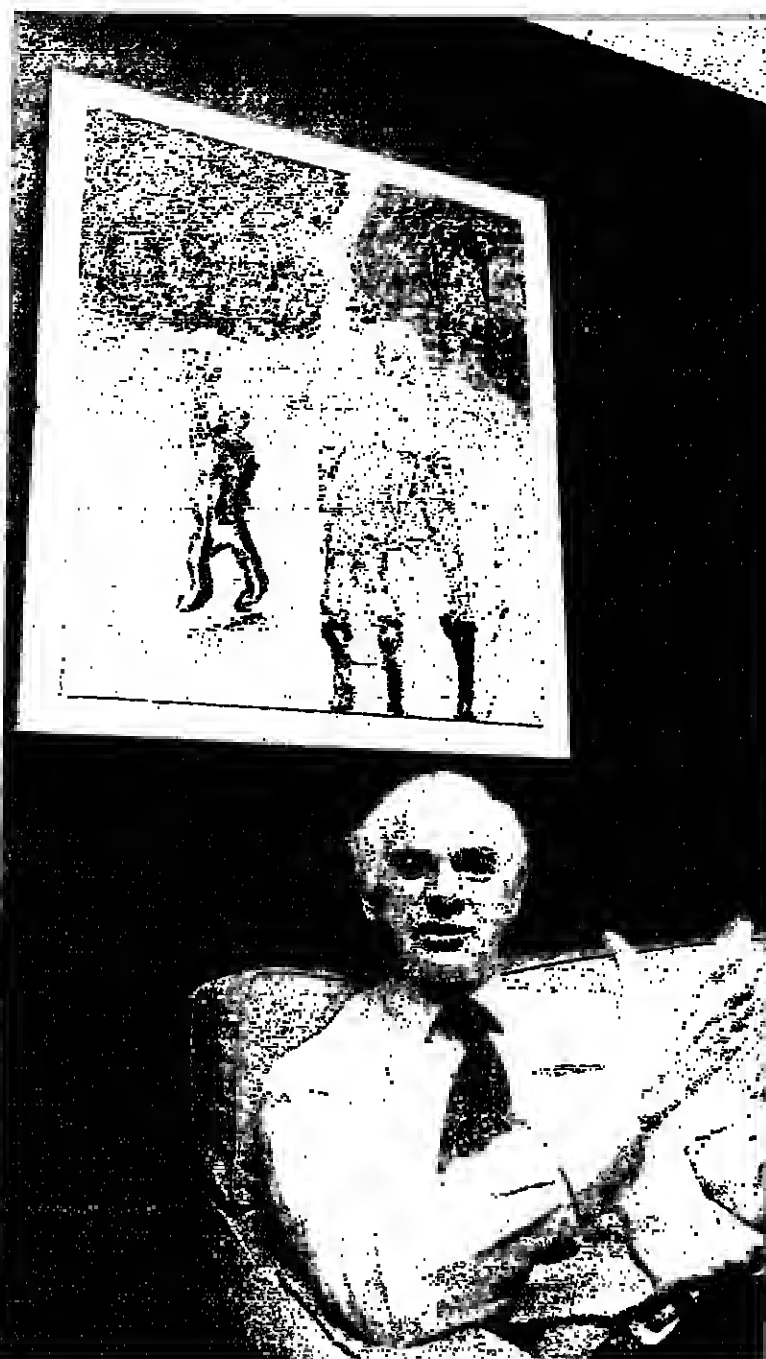
But it would be wrong to conclude from these indicators that the problem of financing small companies in the UK is a thing of the past. The recession just ending has shown up, in a dramatic way, the structural weaknesses of our system of financing small businesses. When demand turns down sharply, one can expect many small companies to go under. But British companies are more vulnerable to downturns than their counterparts in other European countries and seem to suffer disproportionately as a result.

The problem is not, as sometimes portrayed, one of greedy banks fattening their margins at the expense of the struggling entrepreneur. It is understandable that many small business people feel misunderstood and unloved by their banks when credit becomes more costly, or is withdrawn. But studies have shown no systematic exploitation by the banking system of its small business clients, and indeed the results of our clearing banks in the recession show that they have sustained huge losses on their small firms loan books.

The problem is rather that we place excessive reliance in the UK on variable rate overdrafts as core funding for small businesses. That is not necessarily a problem for stable, low-growth companies. But it can have very serious consequences for growing firms, indeed for just the firms we need to encourage if we are to rival the more dynamic performance of other developed economies and to generate jobs.

If one looks at the overall balance sheet of small firms in the UK, one can see that variable rate overdraft facilities account for 58 per cent of total debt. That compares with 25 per cent in Italy and 14 per cent in Germany. By contrast, long-term loans make up 31 per cent of small company debts in Germany, compared with 11 per cent in the UK. This makes British firms more vulnerable to short-term interest rate fluctuations, and particularly vulnerable when — as was the case from 1990 to 1992 — they experience high interest rates at a time of recession.

Over-reliance on variable rate overdrafts is not the only weakness of our small business sector. Nor is it the only reason for its relatively fragile financial condition as we move into recovery. There are management weaknesses, too. Several studies have shown that it is often the lack of understanding of the options available that locks small firms into an unsuitable financial structure. Owner-managers, in particular, are often reluctant to give up a proportion of their equity to outside financiers, even where they could underpin the survival of their business by so doing.



Howard Davies says seven steps could help save companies

There are difficulties, too, in the way large firms treat their smaller suppliers. One in five small firms identify late payment by creditors as a big threat to their survival, and two-thirds maintain that payment delays have increased over the past year, exacerbating the inevitable cash flow problems of growth.

These deep-seated behavioural questions cannot be resolved overnight. But the time is right to think about the kind of financial framework which would make more sense for growing small firms, allowing them to maximise their potential in the upturn, and leaving them better able to resist the next recession. If we do not address that question now, we can expect another massacre of the innocents next time.

The CBI believes that seven steps, taken together, could make a difference. First, large firms, and the government, must improve their payment record. We have established a prompt payment code of practice that has attracted more than 500 supporters, mainly among large companies. But there is more to be done, and it may well be that a British Standard for payment practice, an idea which we are examining, would make sense. Second,

small companies could help themselves by making more use of factoring and invoice discounting. These products have the advantage of being linked directly to the volume of sales, so that the available financing grows as the business grows. Factoring companies also have more muscle to extract prompt payment. The initial payment obstacles faced by small firms moving into export markets could also be cut by the use of cross-border factoring.

Third, the banks should make a broader range of financial services available to small firms, and attempt to offer a financing package tailored to the long-term needs of the growing firm. Given the costs of due diligence investigations when venture capitalists are brought in, for many firms with a need for a small equity injection, their bank is the only realistic option. Banks should do more to promote equity injections, on the one hand, and should promote greater use of medium and long-term debt on the other. They should also be ready to hand off business to their factoring subsidiary where appropriate. All this might mean a change in the

incentive structures for branch managers, to ensure that they have an interest in promoting solutions provided by other parts of their group.

Fourth, small firms with the ambition to grow need to be ready to accept some dilution of control and, as importantly, the need to develop professional management skills. The banks could assist in that process, perhaps by linking the provision of finance, or its cost, to businesses whose managers had undertaken prescribed training. Differential charging could be justified by DTI figures, for example, which have demonstrated that small firm failure is closely linked to management competence.

Fifth, the informal venture capital market should be encouraged. There is evidence that "business angels" provide twice as much new capital to small firms as does the formal venture capital industry. The British Venture Capital Association has recognised that and is exploring ways of encouraging business angels. We see a role here for the TBCs, which might run a "marriage brokerage" service to bring investors and entrepreneurs together. The government could help by allowing tax relief on funds provided by business angels. We have proposed a replacement to the somewhat discredited Business Expansion Scheme, which would target tax relief on local investment funds and — a significant weakness of the BES — allow investors to use their management skills in the businesses in which they have a financial interest.

Sixth, the government could help in another way, too. Retained earnings are the most accessible source of finance available to small firms to finance investment. At present, the corporation tax system penalises growing companies since, post the 1984 reforms, the level of allowances is more heavily dependent on past investment than present levels. This could be remedied by giving small firms a 100 per cent allowance for plant and machinery investment for the first, say, £200,000 of capital expenditure. Such a relief would be particularly justifiable at the moment, when small companies are short of funds, yet should be investing to take advantage of the upturn.

Seventh, we must find a replacement for the Unlisted Securities Market, which the Stock Exchange, last year, wished too hastily to close. There are grounds for believing that the exchange has had second thoughts. It needs to define a genuine "second market" with different characteristics to the big board, something which the USM failed to become.

Many initiatives to strengthen the financing of small firms in the past have become bogged down in an unproductive search for guilty men, usually concentrating on the clearing banks. Now there are signs of a growing realisation that the way small firms have been financed in the past is not optimal for firms themselves, or for the banks. From the banks' point of view, a variable rate overdraft provided to a fast-growing business yields 2 per cent over base; to a failing business it yields nothing, and the capital is lost. This equation does not look symmetrical to the clearers, and indeed it is not. The banks could take a lead in providing financial packages more suited both to them and to their clients. The agenda above would be one way to start.

The author is director-general of the Confederation of British Industry

## TEMPUS

### Safer than houses

SIGNING up the skills of Baring Brothers to run a new joint venture in swaps and other derivatives demonstrates the power that well-capitalised banks such as Abbey National now wield. Abbey has used nothing more than its AA credit rating to increase the size and sophistication of its treasury department. Barings may have the finest team of swaps traders in the world, but without the backing of a large, well-funded institution it was shunned by the best and most profitable customers, which require a high credit rating from any counter-party.

Neither side is willing to disclose how the profits from the joint venture will be shared. But they are unlikely to disadvantage Abbey, which also gains greater access to the swaps markets through the joint venture as a principal. Swaps are now the hidden component in many popular retail financial products such as fixed-rate mortgages and high

interest rate bonds so Abbey needs an efficient swaps team to enhance its product range.

The growth of Abbey's treasury operations since demutualisation has been one of the group's greatest and least-recorded successes. The treasury now has assets of £28 billion and supplied profits of £66 million in the first half of the year, almost a quarter of the total.

Abbey has done rather better from the arcane capital markets than from its other higher profile diversification into estate agency — which will attract other building societies keen to demutualise.

Swaps are risky products, and although the joint venture plans to run a matched book, Abbey will still be exposed to the credit risk of its counter-parties. The risk should be low if the operation restricts itself to clients as well financed as itself. In any case, the downside looks relatively attractive compared with the cost of selling houses.

### Medeva

MEDEVA insists it has solved local difficulties at two of its American subsidiaries, but it is hard to avoid the conclusion that this is another acquisition-led vehicle that has come unstuck.

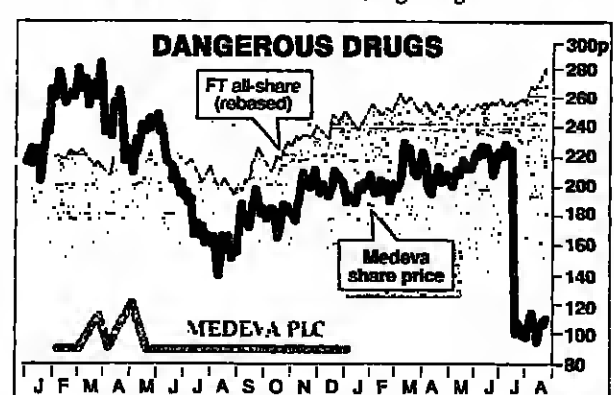
The 18 per cent downturn in half-year earnings, well flagged by last month's profit warning, was hardly a drastic fall, but it has destroyed the market's faith in Medeva's acquisitive ambitions. Too many companies have started a breakneck decline with an anodyne profits warning. Investors were not prepared to hang around to make sure Medeva was an exception.

Structurally, Medeva looks messy, while the slump in the share price has frozen the group's acquisitive development at a delicate stage. Medeva has promising prod-

ucts, but they are spread so thinly across a range of applications and markets that the group lacks critical mass in most businesses. Ribosepharm, the most recent acquisition, catapulted it into the German market and into cancer treatment for the first time. That has little relevance to its existing vaccines and asthma businesses in France

and America. The low share price prevents paper acquisitions to fill the gaps.

At 109p, Medeva shares trade at only nine times current year earnings, a heavy discount even to the unfavourable drugs sector. They look cheap but are unlikely to move far until Medeva can provide a record of blameworthy, organic growth.



### Mersey Docks

THE collapse of the National Dock Labour Scheme in 1989 revealed just how profitable ports can be, even in a recession, if labour costs are kept to a minimum. Mersey Docks made pre-tax profits of almost £16 million in 1992 at the trough of the cycle, up from £13 million in 1991, and shifted 12 per cent more cargo. That growth continued in the first half of the current year without benefit of any property contribution.

Mersey's high level of productivity is helping to bring new traffic to the port at the expense of other ports. A successful takeover of Mersey would allow Mersey to penetrate markets right in the South East.

The prospect of the cyclical benefit of property development profits is the icing on the cake for all ports. Mersey owns some 2,000 acres of land, of which 80 to 90 per cent is operational. A 36-acre site is being developed in partnership with P&O. Sustained economic upturn will ensure that Mersey, with its low cost base, wins all ways, as growth in traffic supplements its gains in market

share and would allow it to accelerate property plans. Little wonder it is keen to acquire, further consolidation is likely in the industry.

### Invesco

AS Invesco brushes off the debris from last year's run-in with the regulators it is becoming evident that this is now an American firm, listed in London by historical accident. Almost 80 per cent of the group's \$64 billion under management now comes from American clients and less than a tenth from Britain. Invesco's chairman and much of the management is American and more than a quarter of the equity is held in America.

Invesco was originally bought by the then MIM Britannia as a way of expanding into America. Since then it has grown fast, while its parent has declined equally rapidly, dogged by an indifferent investment reputation and the Maxwell pensioners. The group has established an ADR so that its shares can be traded more easily on Wall Street. A full listing in New York may well follow, and it cannot be long before the group's quote on the London Stock Exchange becomes a mere curiosity.

### Monument Oil

MONUMENT is suffering from a bumper harvest and too few wagons to get it to market. The company is in the process of raising £270 million, its share of the finance of the Liverpool Bay oil and gas project, but other discoveries are beckoning, including a successful gas find in Argentina where the company is now drilling two wells.

The need to finance development costs has encouraged Monument to seek bids for its Australian interests and the non-recourse financing of the Liverpool Bay project is likely to give the company more financial leeway. A long-term contract to supply Powergen with gas could enable Monument to securitise the income stream and boost cash flow, but cash for shareholders is still uncertain. Monument's policy has been to maximise capital growth and it is not paying dividends. It has still to find a

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### UBS signs up drugs squad

AFTER an absence of several months, UBS is to have a pan-European pharmaceutical team. The secretive Swiss have grabbed Andrew Porter, one of the City's more experienced health and drugs analysts, to head a team of four. Porter, 34, who recently published a textbook on his subject, began his career at Eli Lilly, the American drug group, in the early eighties before stints with Greenwell Montagu, Kleinwort Greaveson, Chase Manhattan and Nikko Europe, where he has been based since 1989. He will focus on the UK, helped by Andrew Richmond, who moves internally, Virginia Pascoe joins in a fortnight from Williams de Broe to cover the European side of the sector, liaising with a fourth team member in Zurich. Pascoe, a former Wellcome trainee, once trained dolphins at Woburn Abbey — a little-known fact that should go down well on the UBS trading floor. Nikko, meanwhile, hopes to sign a replacement for Porter in the near future.

### Heidi ho

HEIDI Fleiss, the alleged Madam of Hollywood, has been revealing what she likes best in a man — age and money, in short. And she cites as an example Bernie Cornfeld, the playboy and financier whose Investors Overseas Services mutual fund empire fell apart spectacularly and scandalously a generation

ago. Now in his mid-sixties, he has apparently lost none of the charm that used to attract a girl on each arm in his younger days. Fleiss, who began living with Cornfeld when she was 19, tells the October issue of *Details* magazine of his generosity. "On my twenty-first birthday, he gave me a million in cash and a Corning. OK? He's not tight... You can put the best looking 22-year-old in front of [me] and it's like, 'ugh. To me, an older guy that is educated and affluent is much more of a sexual turn-on than someone like Marky Mark.' Quite so. Mark, I am told, is a twenty-something singer who enjoys appearing in his underwear.

### Monkey business

MORE evidence of what has long been suspected — a blindfolded chimpanzee has a better chance of picking a good share portfolio than your average



"It's a card from Medeva"

stockbroker. Burton Malkiel, an American author, postulates that, if markets were truly efficient, all available information would be accounted for in today's stock prices, and a blindfolded chimp could do just as well at managing your life savings. Eager to test out the theory, *The Wall Street Journal* recently launched a light-hearted "dartboard" contest, using a random portfolio of four European stocks selected six months ago as if by a blindfolded monkey tossing darts at its stock listings pages. The result? The monkey's portfolio yielded a return of 9.2 per cent over the period, compared with a paltry 1.5 per cent from the professionals.

### Musical chairs

MUSICAL chairs at BZW, where Julian Robins is quitting as banking analyst to join the firm's sales team in New York, selling to US institutional investors. Robins, who has been nagging his superiors to approve the move, flies out next week. BZW has nabbed Hugh Pye and Nick Dobby from Robert Fleming as specialist salesman and analyst respectively to fill the gap. It is something of a homecoming for Pye, who was a manager with Barclays Bank International in 1978-86 before moving on to County NatWest. He signed up with Fleming in 1989. Bill Smith, BZW's head of research, has no more changes up his sleeve for now — but a week is a long time in the City. On a loftier note, BZW has established a chair of investment banking at the

London Business School. The chair will be held by Dr Ian Cooper, chairman of the school's PhD programme, who becomes BZW Associate Professor of Finance.

### Sea change

IT has been anchors away for a revolutionary new racing dinghy launched four months ago by Sunleigh, the quoted leisure products group. Alan Hancock, chief executive, says he has already sold 40 of the Laser 5000 dinghies, which retail at £8,000 each. Unveiling Sunleigh's trading results yesterday, he said the product had the support of leading racing dinghy organisations because of its effect of making competition fairer. "The product has adjustable rigging on either side of the dinghy which can be adjusted by the officials to take account of the different weights of the competing crews," he said. "It is the equivalent of putting weights in the saddle to even things up." A case of creating a level playing sea?

TWO City traders have found a novel way of beating the early rising that goes with the job — they suck coffee from baby's bottles while driving to work. "It helps us to wake up slowly," says Sophie Ward, who breaks financial futures in *Exchange House*, which towers over London's Liverpool Street station. Simon Cook, her friend works for SGST Securities. He is a Eurobond dealer, so his behaviour is understandable.

JON ASHWORTH

## Facing the challenge of the loan guarantee scheme

From Mr Barry Baldwin  
Sir, Christopher Smith's letter (August 23) is profoundly worrying, and his situation may well be typical of the experience many other small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are having at this time. Having survived the recession, these SMEs are experiencing the first signs of upturn and yet are being denied the necessary working capital by their clearing banks to respond effectively to the opportunities now available.

This is precisely the situation the Chancellor had in mind when he announced the enhancements to the small firms loan guarantee scheme in this year's Budget statement, and which were implemented on July 1, 1993. The scheme is specifically applicable to recession-hit smaller businesses with the opportunity to create a viable business again and not simply survive. Many of whom had their bank facility summarily reduced during the economic downturn. These businesses, like that of Mr Smith, require additional working capital to trade out of recession but to date it has not been possible for them to establish the level of commercial credibility required by the banks before making additional finance available. However, it is important that the owners of the smaller businesses understand the magnitude of the problems created by the bank-

ing system in this country. It has historically become highly centralised. As a result, it is not possible for the 40,000 or so bank managers to have working knowledge of the 300 to 400 products which each bank seeks to promote. Hence only a small minority understand the complicated rules applicable to the loan guarantee scheme and its detailed administration, and therefore are confident to talk to customers about it.

The challenge to Mr Smith, and indeed other businessmen in a similar position of needing additional working capital to respond to the upturn, is to insist on meeting the local area bank manager who specialises in the application of the small firm loans guarantee scheme. This may appear nonsensical as Mr Smith wants to buy a service, but in the circumstances it is the only practical solution to his difficulty.

Yours faithfully,  
BARRY BALDWIN  
(Head of Policy Unit),  
Small Business Bureau,  
Suite 46,  
Westminster Palace Gardens,  
Artillery Row, SW1.

## Using Ordnance Survey to assess risk areas

From Mr David Rosemont  
Sir, David Rhind, director-general of Ordnance Survey, has overstated his case (Business Letters, August 20) in describing the attractions of facilities offered by his organisation in connection with optimisation of house insurance costs to the end user.

This company, in co-operation with a major national insurance company, carried out extensive studies into information available, and, in particular, the cost of acquiring the relevant computer files. Regrettably, while the cost of hardware and general software was relatively low, and within the realms of feasibility, the cost of Ordnance Survey licence fees was totally prohibitive.

Mr Rhind is correct that post code analysis on its own is far too crude. Our experi-

## End the charade on NI payments

From Mr H.R.  
Wynne-Griffith  
Sir, Anthony Harris is correct in warning us of the possibility the Chancellor will remove the upper limit on national insurance contributions paid by employees (The Tory selective employment tax, August 17). This warning reminds us that national insurance contributions and income tax are really no different: they are a source of revenue to meet government expenditure. National insurance contributions, while not limited for the employer, remain a badly designed tax for the employee. Would it not be better to get rid of the charade of claiming a distinction between the two?

As a *quid pro quo*, personal investment income could be free of tax as an offset against increased national insurance contributions. In this way, employed people would be encouraged to save and to invest directly in shares, much as they have been encouraged to do under BES arrangements. Yours faithfully,  
H. R. WYNNE-GRIFFITH,  
3 Dulwich Wood Avenue, SE19.

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# ARTS

**THEATRE page 28**

Craig Pinder is a villainous Count in Shelley's rarely seen play, *The Cenci*

**JAZZ page 29**

Pianist Marcus Roberts, whose austere, tightly disciplined approach has set a new agenda



## Poetic sort of millrace

Michael Church on why a converted Yorkshire mill has attracted work by David Hockney and Tony Harrison

The Yorkshire poet Tony Harrison says: "I work by osmosis," and his record bears this out. His most celebrated poem was inspired by random obscenities found scrawled on his parents' grave. His most politically radical play sprang from the discovery of a Sophoclean fragment on an Egyptian rubbish tip.

conventional verses, and his name carved on a rock overlooking the remote valley where he communed with nature. The burghers of Bingley put his bust on a plinth in a local park, but it was stolen in a matter of weeks. So much for his dreams of Parnassus.

Seven years ago, with its industrial raison d'être long gone, the mill was threatened with demolition. Then, quite magically, the wheel came full circle.

Jonathan Silver is a Bradford businessman with Salt's own gift for turning grandiose ideas into action. He bought the mill — 1,000,000 square feet of stone

**'Poetry or Bust' is the verse play he is writing against the clock**

First, some history. John Nicholson was a wool-sorter from Bingley with dreams of literary fame. He was encouraged in his poetic endeavours by his employer, Titus Salt, but composition came to him most naturally impromptu, when he was in his cups. Rich mill-owners had him round as a party piece. He habitually scratched his poems in the congealed grease on his work-bench. Craving immortality of the established sort, he went like Branwell Brontë to London, and got himself arrested for drunkenly haranguing a bust of Shakespeare in a theatre foyer. He visited a stonemason, and came away proudly with a plaster-cast of his own features.

His published poems celebrated peasant life, and hymned the beauties of the Aire: in the West Riding he became known as "the Aire-dale Poet". And it was the Aire which finally claimed him, one drunken night when he stumbled into the weir by Salt's Mill.

All he left behind was a clutch of

sario's energy, ingenuity and audacity. On the ground floor, workers now assemble satellite-dish receivers. A long gallery with a barrel-vaulted brick ceiling has been turned into a stage-lit shrine to David Hockney, whom Silver, trading on a friendship going back 30 years, has made the mill's patron saint. This is where Hockney's (x-rayed) public appearance in Britain, and where his red Cubist pillar-box now stands. The air is thick with Wagner and the scent of giant lilies.

One of the upper galleries is now a clothes emporium, while another has been renamed Salt's Diner: both represent a gesture of defiance to the recession. Silver, who made his money in the rag trade, now



Yorkshire poet Tony Harrison outside Salt's Mill, where his play about the "Airedale poet" John Nicholson, who died 150 years ago, will be premiered next month

sells formal clothes in local weaves for half the London price, and pizzas (colour menu by Hockney).

Everywhere you look in these galleries traces of the original mill have been inventively recycled: the tackle from a giant crane and the painted trumpets of the public address system make arresting objects trouvés. And out of the derelict wool-combing shop, Silver has made a theatre.

Three years ago this was the venue for the National Theatre production of Tony Harrison's clog-dancing satyr play *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus*. On the last night, Harrison presented Silver with a first edition of a poet he thought appropriate to the occasion, John Nicholson. Meanwhile, out of the production a new theatre company was being born: Northern Broadbides, led by Barrie Rutter, another local lad.

Two months ago, as Rutter and his company were concluding a tour at the mill with their dialect

version of *The Merry Wives*, Harrison looked in to say hello, and Silver flung out a challenge. He had a big Hockney show coming up. How about a new play by another local artist to go with it? What about that local artist who fell into the river, exactly 150 years ago?

"Near where we stood was a ceramic medallion of Dante in the local Burmantofts ware," Harrison recalls. "The Leeds Dante," I said. "That's your fee, provided it's done by September 5," said Jonathan.

"If I find clues to a possible event," Harrison says, "I believe it has to happen." He did his research in libraries, and then went out on the trail. The council had denied all knowledge of a bustling plinth in their park, but in ten minutes flat he found this "headless rebuke to the parishioners of Bingley", poetically enfolded by a pine grove.

Then he went to the valley where "Nicholson's Rock" was locally renowned to be, and again struck lucky. Ringing Silver to tell him of

his triumph, he heard that a local man had just walked in with Nicholson's original plastercast. "These poems suggested to me," says Harrison, "that Nicholson's passion for fame was resurfacing. And we were destined to rescue him from oblivion."

*Poetry or Bust* is the title of the verse play he is writing against the clock: a nice pun, given the pressure he is now under, plus the dilemma which destroyed his real-life hero. He doesn't rate Nicholson's verse very high. What he does rate is his indomitable spirit.

The stage will be peopled with a chorus of really famous busts — Homer, Byron, Keats and others — and the play will begin with the poet hunting for his own, and finding his plinth empty. Harrison insists that he doesn't want the play to be "just another piece of local history", but hopes that its proximity to its historic locus will give it a "special energy".

Northern Broadbides will pro-

vide the all-singing, all-clog-dancing actors, with Rutter playing the poet. "The importance of this play for me is that it's about finding — or not finding — your own voice," says Rutter. "Nicholson denied his, and tried to become a bust. He should have been another Burns. Coming back here, and working with like-minded people, I've rediscovered my voice, and my real energies."

Getting back to Harrison's verse, he says, "that engine, that rock 'n' roll motor," after the prose of *The Merry Wives* will be a delight. Another attraction this project has for all of them is its sheer speed.

The day before the first rehearsal, Rutter had not seen a word of the script. Quite unworried, he harked back to the first performance of *Trackers* in Delphi, where a high wind suddenly blew the set away. One hour to curtain-up. Harrison presented him with 20

new couplets to learn, incorporating the wind's effects. "It took me longer to learn than it did him to write."

But this singular event is being presented at a time, and in a place, where the eyes of the world are already focused. Hockney has designed yet another gallery in which his "Very New Paintings" are to be displayed, and he has added some even newer ones to those recently shown in Glasgow. The significance of the works to be unveiled at Salt's Mill next week is discussed at length in the second stage of his autobiography, due from Thames and Hudson in October.

And one more thing. Earlier this year Hockney went round Bridlington, where his mother lives, photographing people and dogs at play. He has decreed that 55 laser blow-ups of these should decorate Salt's Diner. Very casual, nothing heavy. "Some local snaps."

● *Poetry or Bust* at Salt's Mill (0274 531163), Salthouse, West Yorks, Sept 5-12.

## Naxos is recreated in Kent

Jonathan Miller has produced a student triumph, reports Barry Millington

Out of the ashes of the much-lamented Kent Opera has arisen Broomhill: an idyllic opera venue reclaimed from an unused Victorian theatre in a country house near Tunbridge Wells. The new enterprise differs from the previous touring operation subsidised by the Arts Council, but now in its third season, Broomhill has really made its mark with an International Opera Course under the direction of Jonathan Miller.

The theatre is a purpose-built auditorium, with a deep stage (42 feet), and wood panelling providing exceptionally fine acoustics. As part of an ambitious multi-media season (called *Generator One*) lasting two whole months, the opera course offered young singers from all over the world the chance to work with Miller and musical director Nicholas Cleobury on Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* — an apt choice, set in the private theatre of a country house.

An apt choice, perhaps, but not an obvious one. For *Ariadne* poses a dual casting problem that taxes even major opera companies. The coloratura pyrotechnics of the coquettish Zerbinetta inhabit realms of the stratosphere not frequented in the normal course of duty by aspiring professionals, while the role of *Ariadne's* saviour, Bacchus, an extended final-scene Wagnerian rant — mercilessly tests even seasoned heroic tenors.

But the gamble paid off. On the opening night, there were no embarrassing moments to make you wince; on the contrary, at least one performance I would go a long way to hear again. But first, one must pay tribute to the collective enterprise. This was a tremendously accomplished, constantly engaging theatrical event, its



*Ariadne auf Naxos*: Zerbinetta (Sharon Rostorf) and the Composer (Theresa Shaw)

stage business handled with aplomb, and strongly cast.

In the Prologue, set backstage — and here the pulleys, levers and even hangings from the Victorian theatre contributed to the atmosphere — the intrigue involving Major-Domo (Andrew Hamblin-Smith in the speaking role), Music Master (strongly sung by Andrew Griffiths) and The Composer (a fervent-voiced Theresa Shaw) unfolded in great style. The German dialogue was crystal clear and excellently enunciated, if unappreciated by perhaps 95 per cent of the audience.

For the action of the opera within an opera — the simultaneous *seria* and *buffa* entertainment demanded by the Major-Domo — Miller, with designer Mark Bailey, draws on the accoutrements of the Broomhill theatre to point up the situation. The faded Victorian hangings now come

into their own and Ace McCarron's full-frontal lighting evokes the ambience of amateur theatricals.

Zerbinetta's entourage of *commedia dell'arte* clowns is translated to the world of music-hall comedians, with brilliantly sung and acted performances by Stephen Chaundy, Rein Kolpa, William Dazely and Matthew Hargreaves. Rein Kolpa's Dancing Master, all patent leather shoes and prancing choreography, was poised on the edge of caricature. The voices of nymphs (Teria Sefton-Green, Sally Harrison and Christina Wilson) wafted down from balconies.

And so to the principals. Rachel Sparer demonstrated considerable vocal reserves in the title role. If her visionary "Es gibt ein Reich" seemed to lack a touch of mystery, this was nevertheless a strongly sung performance.

Sharon Rostorf could have done with some of those reserves for her attempt on the demanding role of Zerbinetta.

The coloratura of her big aria, "Grossmächtige Prinzessin!", was not floated with quite the skittishness of the character requires, but it was a brave stab at a near-impossible role. Performances of *Ariadne* can be made or sunk by the aquatic advent of Bacchus. This one was triumphantly clinched by Nicholas Buxton's unflinching, resonant assumption of the role: a worthy hero in every respect.

Nicholas Cleobury conducted the excellent Britten Sinfonia with a genuine feel for the liquid flow of phrases, gathering in the final stages into a powerful and passionate peroration. There are six further performances, with alternating casts (0892 517720). Highly recommended.

**PROMS: Stephen Pettitt**

## Nordic relish in an alpine romp

To the outside world Marius Jansons, the conductor of the moment, shows a suave, modest image, reflecting the fastidious side of this most fastidious of artists. But inside there lurks a hungry animal of a musician, as Mondays' Albert Hall Prom with his own Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra demonstrated. Richard Strauss's sprawling symphonic poem, *An Alpine Symphony*, which ended the concert, is not for those who stand on polite ceremony. The work is so thoroughly infused with strong onomatopoeia, and its ideas are so naive, that it leaps into the realm of the vulgar.

But who cares about that? Not I, nor I suspect, Jansons. He relished the sense of space that brings Strauss surprisingly close to the world of Sibelius in this work. This is Strauss overawed by nature and for once unconcerned with ego. The wonderful sunrise, the delayed triumph of the ascent and the melodrama of the flashing storm, were laid out unapologetically before an audience thirsty for the sheer physical pleasure of the experience. The fine Oslo brass resounded with glory in passages of triumph, the entire orchestra revelled in the drama of the maelstrom, and

moments of spiritual mystery were painted in equally vivid colours. If orchestral conducting is about motivation, then Jansons has the magic formula in his back pocket, ready to produce at any time.

But to succeed as it did here the work's vast structure still needs to be shaped carefully and viewed as an entity. As in any symphony, you ignore internal balance at your peril. Jansons, conducting without a score, as usual, did everything right in that department, too. His judgment was sound even to the matter of preferring an electronic organ — fine instruments, these days — to the wheezing Albert Hall monster. This was altogether a thrilling experience.

The good that Jansons has wrought with his Oslo charges, comparable with what Rattle has done for the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, was equally evident in their performance of

Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Accompanimental the orchestra's role might often be in this piece, but to balance so deftly and alertly any soloist is never easy. Here the violinist was Midori, slight of figure but massive of tone and superlatively confident of technique. No sign of human frailty: her violin playing is not of that kind. Nothing fazes her, nothing even begins to threaten the strength of sound or the per-

fection of intonation. And while it would have been good to hear her play something a little more out of the ordinary, she still managed to make this well-worn work sound relatively fresh. She relished the gentle lyricism of the slow movement and danced her way through the finale, for instance, as though, even after the scores of performances she must have already given, it still means a lot to her.

Schnittke's (*Kein Sommer-nachtsstraum*, with its bizarre distortions of 18th-century manners, made a slightly odd introduction to all this. It must have terrified the back-desk violinist whose solo began the concert (which was televised live), but functioned as a palate-cleansing sorbet for what followed.

## Trusts do not mix

A CHANGE of plan for Riverside Studios in Hammer-smith, the west London arts complex. The venue had been exploring the possibility of entering into an alliance with the Women's Playhouse Trust, as a possible alternative to appointing an individual as director. Now, however, those negotiations have broken down. According to Riverside Studios, "both companies are charitable trusts and the difficulties of effecting an alliance that would properly preserve both parties' interests have proved insurmountable."

Instead, Riverside has announced the appointment of a new director, who will take up the post in October. He is William Burdett-Counts, who since 1981 has been artistic director of Stella Artos Assembly, which runs the Assembly Rooms during the Edinburgh Festival. He has

### ARTS BRIEFING

also been head of arts at Granada Television for the past four years.

His appointment is good news for Alan Rickman and Thelma Holt: Burdett-Counts will enter into discussions with the actor and producer about forming a new theatre company based at Riverside. "I shall do my best to involve them in some form," the new director says. "I have every sympathy with the kind of stage shows they create."

Meanwhile, Burdett-Counts promises that Riverside, which includes a cinema, gallery and television studio as well as a theatre, will continue as a mixed venue.

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# Colour enters the picture

Should artists be grouped together by cultural background? Joseph Williams previews a festival of South Asian art

In a perfect world, we would talk of art: not South Asian art; not British South Asian art; just art. The colour on the canvas should interest us, not the colour of the painter's skin. So when the South Asian Visual Arts Festival is launched next week in venues throughout the West Midlands, is there a political message underneath?

Is this artist-led jamboree saying that British South Asian artists are ignored by the establishment, and therefore they have to mount exhibitions themselves? Why are they not showing with their non-South Asian congeners? Are they labelling themselves by asking us to see them as "South Asian" artists rather than "artists"?

Can Rajinder Sawhney, who is curating the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery's contribution, one of the opening shows of the four-month festival, says: "The idea is very much to push British Asian art into the mainstream: get it out of the ethnic minority pigeon-hole — the idea that it's only for a select market. It's very hard to sell your work in the market. You're framed round the question of 'otherness' and issues about being Asian or Indian."

Anuradha Patel, who will exhibit a majestic ten-foot-tall ceremonial Hindu boat, accepts that there is a risk of ghettoising artists. "But," she adds, "I feel all this energy is there, and it just needs to come out, rather than being issues based on

whether it's right or whether we should go for mixed shows. I don't just show as an Indian artist. That doesn't come first."

She believes that many Asians would not normally come near the Birmingham Museum: it is alien to their culture. The festival aims to change that. And Asian artists, says Patel, "don't want to feel they have to create work that makes a certain comment about who they are, simply because it's expected."

The scale of the jamboree is massive. Some 60 painters, sculptors and mixed-media artists — with origins in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, but living in Britain — are showing in museums across Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton, Stoke, Worcester and Shrewsbury.

**'The work must speak for itself, but the artist's background shapes it'**

Juginder Lamba, the festival director, says he is concerned with giving a platform to artists who are now "second or third generation Asians" producing work that he believes will be as relevant to white as to Asian crowds.

Many artists, while maintaining traditional beliefs, want to show how these beliefs relate to a modern British way of life. Chila Kumari Burman, who creates laser-generated imagery, says there is a lack of awareness of Asian art. "People don't understand that we've been brought up very traditionally, but we're also very British or very English."

But is it right to talk of a lack of awareness? After all, British Asians



Juginder Lamba: the Midlands festival aims to push British Asian art into the mainstream, to get it out of the ethnic minority pigeon-hole

have already reached top positions in the arts: from the sculptors Anish Kapoor and Dhruva Mishra to the actor Armita Malik and the choreographer and dancer Shobana Jeyasingh. And many Asian visual and performing artists marry both cultures — British and South Asian — rather than embracing one to the detriment of the other.

Jeyasingh, whose dance company has successfully worked with British composers such as Michael Nyman, upsets some Asian purists because her work combines Western elements with the classical elegance of Indian Bharata Natyam. "But," she says, "the people who are more upset are the English. A lot of native English people look to Indian dance to satisfy their taste for exoticism or nostalgia for the Raj. They love the colour and the mythology and the

fact that they cannot understand it is part of the mystique."

In a perverse way, there's a really big market for very entrenched Indian traditionalist art forms. People feel more comfortable with them because they have decided that's what Indian dance is and they don't like anything that challenges it."

She does not talk in terms of a marriage of two disparate cultures, because she sees no great gulf between them in the first place: "Part of the 20th-century experience for a lot of people has been movement from places where families have lived for generations. For me it's trying to make sense of my condition. It's really expressing what I am. And what I am is I'm of Indian origin and I live in north London. It's as simple as that."

Ironically, in a poll taken of Jeyasingh's audiences, only 15-20

per cent were British South Asians. This suggests that a whole swathe of British Asians needs to be enticed into going to see dance, just as they need to be coaxed into visiting the Birmingham Museum. But it also suggests a deeper irony, which Jeyasingh herself touches on, when she refers to the successful sculptor Anish Kapoor: "One of the strange things is that once people of South Asian origin break into the mainstream we actually forget they're of South Asian origin — they just become British contemporary sculptors."

Kapoor has never turned his back on his roots — his work is informed by his Indian origins — but in 1989 he turned down the chance to appear in a major exhibition of African and Asian art at the Hayward Gallery in London. He believed the show could marginalise artists and, at the time,

explained his reasons with an analogy: "If I was a woman artist, I would not want to feature in an all-women exhibition. This threatens to place more emphasis on the periphery of being an artist, rather than the main thing: the art."

So to what extent should South Asians embrace the British culture they are part of? And are they watering down their own the more they do so? For instance, many Asians actors still feel typecast. Whereas painters can be judged by their canvases alone, actors are also judged on how they look and some Asian actors run the risk of token casting.

But Ian Brown, drama director at the Arts Council, says that Asian theatre companies such as Tara Arts have broken into the mainstream, with productions of *Taruffe* and *The Little Clay Cart* reaching the National Theatre. "I

think Jatinder Verma [Tara's director] is exploring theatrical conventions in terms of British and European classics and Indian classical traditions, but not in any slavish way of applying one to the other. He's exploring the dynamics so that a different form of quite vital theatre emerges."

It should not matter that the artists in the Midlands festival are Asian: the work must speak for itself. But any artist's background and view of life shapes his or her work. And Asian artists are deeply influenced by their family traditions and experiences. The spirit of the festival is right: a celebration of art, not an angry response to a perceived oppression.

● The South Asian Visual Arts Festival opens September 2 at various venues in the West Midlands. Festival office: (021 693 2500, mornings only) or Juginder Lamba (0939 260861).



Marcus Roberts: immersing himself in early styles of jazz that were previously scorned by players of his generation

## Past master with a great future

For forty years or more one small corner of the leading American jazz magazine, *Down Beat*, has been set aside for a quaint, but often enlightening conversation piece known as the "Blindfold Test". Prominent players are invited to listen to half a dozen unidentified records and then to pass judgement on them, awarding marks out of five.

Think of it, if you like, as a jazz version of *Desert Island Discs*, with the all-important difference that the honoured guest has no say in the selection. Usually, the test becomes an opportunity for gentle backslapping: five-star accolades are handed out with abandon.

Then, in the August edition, along came Marcus Roberts. Clearly not versed in the finer arts of diplomacy, he set about detailing the limitations of his fellow pianists. The late Art Hodes escaped relatively lightly (it's very beautiful, it's just not swinging," concluded Roberts).

For the pianist Marcus Roberts the study of historical playing styles points the way forward for jazz. Clive Davis reports

run out ("He just didn't know nothing about Monk"). His bluntness should come as no surprise. A friend and colleague of Wynton Marsalis, he shares the trumpeter's stringent — some would say intolerant — views on what makes a good jazz musician. Craftsmanship comes first for him, and like Marsalis, he is engaged on a self-imposed re-education programme in which he is immersing himself in early styles of jazz previously scorned by players of his generation.

Roberts, who turned 30 this month, now prefers to play unaccompanied, as he did at the Brecon Festival a few weeks ago. The fruits of his learning are also to be found on a series of solo recordings beginning in 1990 with *Alone With Three Giants* (Novus PD83109) — devoted to the music of Morton, Ellington and Monk — and continues with his latest release, *If I Could Be With You* (Novus 63149).

Like the previous releases, the new album is a compendium of keyboard styles, the stately gospel cadences of "Just A Closer Walk With Thee" set alongside luminous ballads such as "Embraceable You" and an audacious arrangement of Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag".

The albums arouse mixed reactions. Roberts's approach can often seem excessively impersonal and lacking in sensuality, so much so that you occasionally long for the extra surge of energy that would be provided by bass and drums. But his thoughtful programming and his harmonic sophistication are undeniable assets.

A somewhat prickly interviewee, he evidently feels he has been given a hard ride by critics, especially those who question his decision to devote so much time to revivalism. "Critics attack me for trying to play James P. Johnson, Monk and Jelly Roll Morton. They seem to me not to like real jazz. No one attacks a physicist for wanting to know what Albert Einstein did. No one criticises a pilot for wanting to learn about the Wright Brothers. It's absurd."

Roberts, who lost his sight when he was four, came to prominence when he joined the Marsalis band in 1985. He made his first recording with his own group in 1988, soon after taking first prize in an inaugural international jazz piano competition set up in memory of Thelonious Monk. The disc's title, *The Truth Is Spoken Here*, amply ex-

pressed Roberts's austere philosophy, though that did not prevent the album from rising to the top of the US jazz charts. The follow-up, *Deep In The Shed*, achieved the same feat, as did *Alone With Three Giants*.

But does the rise of Marsalis, Roberts and the other so-called "neo-conservatives" mean that jazz has reached the end of its natural development? Is there nothing left to look forward to but re-workings of what has gone before? "No, it's a long way from any sort of dead end," says Roberts. "That's a misunderstanding of what people like Wynton are doing."

As for the future of the piano, Roberts believes it is important to re-emphasise the importance of a fuller, two-handed approach. In the pre-bop era, he points out, pianists were often expected to provide their own rhythmic accompaniment through the varied stride and boogie rhythms of the left hand. With the advent of bebop that function was increasingly allotted to bass players and drummers, leaving pianists to focus on right hand embellishment.

That, Roberts argues, has led to an impoverishment of technique. Pianists in his view, should be encouraged to aim for a more percussive and orchestral sound. The rhythmic element should never be under-estimated, he says — after all, people used to dance to this music.

# Capture a piece of history.

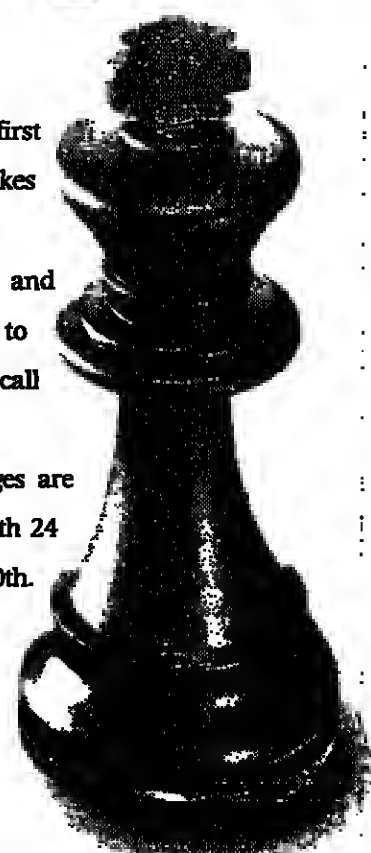
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# Curtain up on second-hand fashions

The young royals are doing it. So is the Countess of Glamorgan (hers were pink, moire and ruffled). Helen Mirren, the Countess of Arran and hordes of Sackville-Wests, Bonham Carters, Tennants and Astors. Anyone who is anyone, it seems, now recycles their curtains.

Just as fashion has been dominated by grunge and last season's biggest Paris couture story was "le style recup", so the world of interior decor has leapt on the second-hand bandwagon. Style-pointers everywhere are championing the recycled, the third-hand, the pass-me-down, the anything-as-long-as-it-isn't-new.

Conservation is sensible as well as fashionable, says Jackie Horsford, who sells second-hand curtains and opened her tenth shop last week in Glasgow. "Home-owners want to be green not just when throwing out the rubbish but when they are doing up their houses as well. It is entirely in tune with the 1990s dislike of waste and growing environmental consciousness."

And let us not forget the recession. To curtain the average London sash window — depending on the quality of cloth and how fancy the design — would cost about £400 in labour alone. Add the cost of material, and a pair of curtains might cost £800, Ms Horsford calculates. Her second-hand curtains would cost about half.

Inspired by the horror of seeing some interlined brocade curtains thrown on to a skip, Ms Horsford set up her first Curtain Exchange five years ago in the premises below her flat in Fulham, west London.

**Cast-off curtains and furniture from the homes of the rich and famous are collectable items, reports Rachel Kelly**

Her curtains come chiefly from wealthy home-owners, interior decorators and show flats and have to be lined and in good condition before she will accept them. Customers wishing to sell agree a price with the shop and leave the curtains for up to six months. Ms Horsford sells them on a 50 per cent commission basis. Those that do not sell are either returned or given to charity.

**"The patina of age is all the rage. The height of fashion"**

What is old also tends to be fashionable at the moment and a best-seller. Out of favour is anything redolent of the ostentatious 1980s. Festoon blinds, except for very awkward windows or possibly kitchens, are out of favour. So are bright pastel flowers, fluffy ruffles, and elaborate pelmet. Also less popular are swags and tails and English country-house flower patterns.

In favour is a look of greater simplicity: tailored pelmet, poles with clip rings, pinch-pleated head-

ings and faded flower patterns. And really chic are Parisian-style cafe curtains — checked curtains on a pole beloved of bistros the length of France. So too is anything checked or striped, preferably in yellow and blue on white.

"Many older styles are now the height of fashion," Ms Horsford says. "The patina of age is all the rage."

Joy O'Shea has just decorated her five-bedroom, four-bathroom house in Hamilton Terrace, St John's Wood, north-west London, entirely in curtains from the Curtain Exchange. "I've used plain curtains in the patterned rooms and patterned curtains in the plain rooms," she says.

"It's more economical to start with curtains. If you start on the walls, you may end up having to replaster the room and spend far more than you imagined. I prefer everything old," Ms O'Shea says. "I like second-hand clothes and second-hand furniture and old jewellery and old people."

That old-is-chic is also true for furniture. The trick is to buy second-hand and then improve it with expensive fabric or paint-work. Designer Sasha Waddell, who redecorates the organ room at Glyndebourne, has designed a room in her own Fulham house using the cheapest street market furniture, plus one inexpensive "Louis" chair.

"Seemingly undesirable, unpromising furniture can be transformed by clever painting and chic fabrics," she says. The furniture was found during a week scouring the market and shops of Shepherd's Bush, in west London. Typically, the gilt handles on a desk were removed and replaced with tassels. The desk was painted



Jackie Horsford in her stylish bedroom which is furnished with items from auction rooms, second-hand shops and markets

fuchsia pink. (The decorator Mary Fox Linton predicts the return of pink as the strongest decorating theme for next year.)

Ms Waddell used John Stefanidis's foibles collection for the re-upholstery: a modern version of Venetian motifs in bright colours

on thick cotton, costing £20 a metre. This collection has been chosen as an exhibit for the Victoria & Albert 20th century gallery.

The former model lines de la Fressange's shops in the Avenue Montaigne, Paris, pick up the same style. What is clearly old furniture

has been repainted in strong, flat colours.

Mulberry design shops are moving in the opposite direction to produce the same effect. They take new furniture, and distress it, much in the manner that jeans and leather jackets are industrially

aged. Roger Saul, the head of the company, says: "I realised when designing the interiors of my shops that a coffee-table in brand new pine looked hideous. So we learnt how to age things." The young royals have not yet popped in, but undoubtedly they soon will.

Stewart Tendler describes a premier salmon fishing stretch — on an estate where Beatrix Potter lived — that is now on the market

## Land a catch with Jeremy Fisher

A stretch of the mighty Tay, one of Scotland's premier salmon rivers, where Beatrix Potter spent part of her childhood, is for sale at a price of more than £800,000. The Dalguise Fishings, on the middle stretch of the Tay near Dunkeld, Perthshire, were part of the Dalguise estate which was rented by the Potter family in Victorian times.

Beatrix Potter spent a considerable time in the area. Her observations of the wildlife may well have influenced her books and her illustrations of characters which later became world famous, such as Jeremy Fisher.

Salmon fishers are more likely to be interested in the fishing, which the agent, Knight Frank & Rutley, says

has remained consistent over the years, with an average of 104 fish per year during a season which lasts from January to October. The stretch, traditionally a six-rod beat, offers fishing from both banks on a variety of pools. More than 2,000 fish have been taken in 20 years.

The longest salmon river in Britain at 120 miles, the Tay has a special place in the hearts of salmon fishers: some of the very productive lower beats could change hands for millions if they came on the market. The river is about 80 yards across at Dunkeld.

The record for the largest salmon taken in Britain is in the name of a Miss Ballantine, who landed a 64-pounder on the Tay in 1922, before commercial net fish-

ing took its toll. In the 1860s a man called Willie Walker is said to have netted an 84lb fish. Now there are hopes that netting restrictions will improve productivity and the big beasts could return.

For the sale, the Dalguise Fishings have been divided into two lots on behalf of the owners, a commercial company. The lots may be sold together or separately.

One lot covers a mile of the water and includes a lunch hut. The two islands on the stretch are protected as SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) in a area of Scotland where anglers may see otters, osprey and oystercatchers.

The second lot offers another quarter-mile of the river and Burnside Cottage, a three-bedroom house, near the river.



Beatrix Potter spent a lot of time at Dunkeld



Concentration at Dalguise Fishings, where the salmon beat is consistent

Many Russians may still be in shock from learning a few weeks ago that their currency — roubles issued before this year — had been pronounced invalid under the reforms. But a good number of them, and others from former Soviet states, are already in Britain with pockets bulging, buying London property that costs between £200,000 and more than £1 million.

Estate agents report dealings with entrepreneurial Russian businessmen who know exactly what they are looking for. The Russians themselves prefer to be discreet, having had the odd brush with tabloid reporters and having a high regard for security.

They prefer to be able to walk straight into a property without having to do anything to it," says Mark Sumray of Benham & Reeves. The company says that out of all their foreign purchasers, those from Russia are now following closely (in numbers) on the heels of buyers from Hong Kong and America.

Mr Sumray says: "On average, they want to spend about £400,000 to £500,000 on garden flats or modern houses. They are buying either to live here or for investment and all have cash in hand."

James Wilson of Wilson & Wilson, the property search company, says: "We have had quite a few Russian clients. They want property in prime residential areas: Mayfair, Kensington, Regent's Park and Chelsea. They will consider both a new and a period home, but it has to be in good condition."

"Some of the former Soviet states, such as Latvia, are booming, and there is a new generation of entrepreneurs who have the ability to accumulate cash quickly. Their perception of our economy is that it is safe and they are looking for investment and a foothold in this country."

Yolande Barnes, Savills' research director, has just

## The Russians are here: on a buying spree

Entrepreneurs from eastern Europe have cheered the housing market



London's larger homes are the Russian buyers' targets

announced new figures on foreign buyers of homes in London since the collapse of the exchange-rate mechanism. She says: "Since the ERM debacle in September 1992, the number of foreigners buying in London and elsewhere has increased significantly."

Her figures, for the year to April 1993 show that in central London 7.2 per cent of purchases were by western Europeans, 2.4 per cent from Hong Kong, 7.2 per cent from America and 8.4 per cent from other countries — including the Russians. The average price paid by "others" was £1.28 million, compared with less than £950,000 paid by

British buyers. Noel de Keyser, at Savills' Hampstead office, says: "We have had several Russian buyers spending between £500,000 and £2 million. They are buying for investment as they perceive the London market is at rock bottom, but intend to live here when they are over for business purposes."

Christopher Bective, managing director of Egerton, has had a different experience of Russian needs. "They are after flats between £200,000 and £300,000. Their economy is a bit dodgy and their purchasing power has been weakened but they are still buying over here."

"They are looking mainly in

Mayfair and Kensington — a few in north London. They like their privacy and are very conscious of security," Mr Bective says.

"So far, Russian buyers dealing with us have always been individuals, not companies, always have interpreters with them, and are looking for a bolt-hole."

"But £200,000 must seem a huge amount of money to them. You can get a flat next door to the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow, of equivalent size to one with four bedrooms near the Albert Hall in London, for only £50,000. And in St Petersburg you can buy a magnificent flat for only £20,000."

Russians are renting, too. Cluttons London Residential Lettings has just let a two-bedroom flat in Sloane Street to a financial adviser and his wife for £275 a week. Cluttons says: "He was looking for a modern flat, which this is, and has taken it for a year."

Lassmans has sold two large flats for about £750,000 to Russian businessmen who wanted a family home. Both were purpose-built flats recently refurbished to a high standard, on long leases and with good security.

One of the properties was a four-bedroom Mayfair apartment which had been on the market for two years. "A Russian businessman saw it," says Alastair Mercer of Lassmans, "liked the proportions and elegant interior and bought very quickly. The other one was on the market for only a month. Contracts were exchanged and completed within four weeks."

"They appreciate the quality of a good flat and they move like lightning once they have decided to buy. We have another three people looking at the moment around the £250,000 mark. Two other Russians were looking to spend £500,000 and both ended up spending £250,000 more."

MARY WILSON

The government has plans for a new advertising campaign encouraging more council tenants to buy their homes. Yet the right to buy has not provided the Utopian homes for council tenants that it seemed to offer when Margaret Thatcher started the scheme in 1979, despite discounts of up to 50 per cent on houses and 70 per cent on flats.

More than 1.4 million council houses and flats have been sold in the past 14 years. But some who bought their homes have been unable to sell their properties, while others, mostly flat leaseholders, have been confronted with massive maintenance bills.

The government has never publicly estimated the number of tenants it expected to take up the option to purchase, but the recession led last year to the lowest sales of council homes for ten years. Just 65,000 tenants opted to buy in 1992, compared with 132,000 in 1990 and 190,000 in 1989.

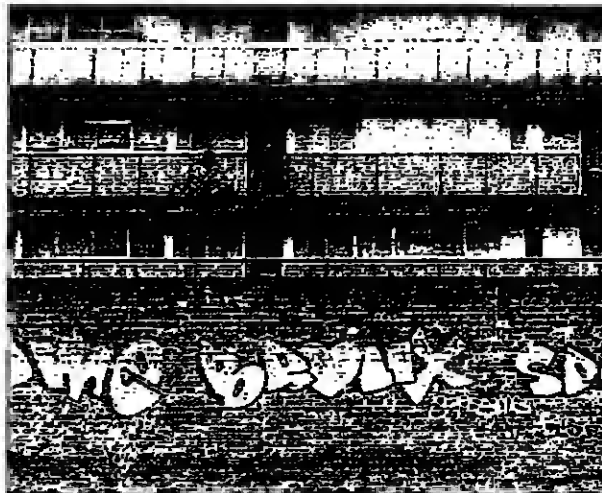
Flat owners have been particularly dogged by problems, with high service charges and maintenance bills being imposed by some councils, particularly in blocks with mixed ownership. In some cases, these have even led to repossession.

Frances Smith, a founder of the National Federation of Council Leaseholders, said one London borough was charging some leaseholders more in service charges than local tenants were paying in rent. "Service charges and bills vary. In Hammersmith and Fulham, my service charge is £600 a year, including insurance, but a leaseholder in another borough says he's paying £114 a month for a concierge service that does not even appear to be provided," she says.

"I've heard instances of each leaseholder in a block being billed for £37,000. In another borough, they were asked for £9,000 just for double glazing and a little decorating. How

## High hopes that turn into deep trouble

The right-to-buy scheme is proving costly for some council tenants



Owners of high-rise former council flats cannot re-sell

many people can find that kind of money? If they'd known these bills were going to come up, such tenants wouldn't have bought."

The federation wants a leaseholders' Bill of Rights, and sent one to Sir George Young, the housing minister, in June. It demands that the right to buy flats in tower blocks is stopped, and that councils buy back at market rates those that have been sold. It wants the government to underwrite major refurbishment costs where less than two-thirds of a block or estate has been sold. Beyond that point, leaseholders have the right to buy the freehold under new legislation. Finally, it

wants councils to "set thousands free" by repurchasing at a fair market value any property that cannot be resold because of discrimination, misrepresentation, or an act of neglect.

Building societies have been reluctant to lend on some properties. According to an environment department spokesman: "We're talking to the Council of Mortgage Lenders now because we know some lenders won't lend on some properties that are more than four storeys tall."

Adrian Coles, director of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, says: "There are difficulties with the right to buy where the market has all but disap-

peared. There's concern about the mortgageability and market for former local authority flats. If there's any question of structural problems, local authorities should ask themselves what they have sold and whether they should have sold it."

The environment department is researching the extent of the problem, and expects to make a decision in the autumn about whether to provide a scheme to help those in difficulties. Around the same time, the government will again be advertising right-to-buy. But the charity, Shelter, has warned the government against pressuring council tenants.

Sheila McKechnie, Shelter's director, says: "We don't want to see vulnerable tenants on low incomes being persuaded to exchange a secure home for one which may become insecure. Nothing is sadder than former council tenants who are being repossessed and who could have stayed in their home if they'd remained tenants."

But Alan Muir, the professor of planning and housing at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, is optimistic about market prospects.

"The general picture is that there are problems with flats, but that's a small proportion of right-to-buy sales. Don't damn the whole process with that. Resale prices are highest on small rural estates and are worst on big urban estates with a lot of flatbed property," he says. "Most people have bought on the small attractive estates. The estates where there have been lots of sales are now beginning to sell on to second buyers, and these tend to be more affluent people, because they don't get the tenants' discount. But while there has been a drop in sales, there's no reason to think the market won't revive again as we come out of the recession."

CHRISTINE WEBB



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# A second chance to be a student

With the clearing scheme about to start, *The Times* begins its guide to degree vacancies today with arts and social sciences. John O'Leary explains how the listings work

Places may be scarce in the arts and social sciences, but the listings on these two pages demonstrate that there are vacancies for those who are quick off the mark and are prepared to be flexible about their choice of course.

There are still opportunities in business studies, and the selection of language courses is wider than most experts predicted. Even the most popular subjects, such as English and law, are available in some of the new universities and colleges of higher education, although the situation is expected to change rapidly once clearing starts.

Although formal offers cannot be made until Tuesday, applicants are advised to make the earliest possible approach to admissions officers. Good candidates will receive informal offers, and some of the courses may effectively be full after the Bank Holiday weekend.

The courses listed here all had vacancies yesterday, although many were filling up fast. The codes following each university or college name are those appearing in the UCCA or PCAS handbook for 1993 entry. Where a figure appears in brackets, it gives the institution's estimate of the number of A-level points required for entry.

Points are calculated on the normal UCCA scale, using a maximum of three A-levels. An A grade is worth ten points, B eight, C six, D four and E two. An A grade at AS-level counts as five points, B four, C three, D two and E one.

New universities and col-

leges of higher education do not publish predicted entry requirements. Candidates with other qualifications should contact the university to establish course requirements. The courses are listed under subject headings, and combined subject degrees may appear in more than one section. The UCCA and PCAS handbooks contain full details of each course.

Today's listings cover the arts, business and social sciences only. Vacancies in science subjects will appear tomorrow, with engineering and technology on Friday. The service will continue throughout the four weeks of clearing.

The two clearing bodies will issue instructions to all applicants who have not been offered a place by Friday afternoon. The clearing process is also open to new applicants.

University and college telephone numbers are listed on page 35. Neither UCCA nor PCAS allocates places, but both can be contacted in the event of problems with a clearing application.

A number of helplines are operating during the clearing period, which finishes on September 24. The official service, operated from Middlesex University, can be contacted on 081 801 3000. There is a queuing system, which prevents the number from ringing engaged, but will often mean a lengthy wait for callers. Among the other services is an off-air advice line run by BBC Radio 5, which has received record numbers of calls. The service, on 0500 505050, operates from 10am to 6pm daily throughout August.



Competition is fierce for courses like those at Middlesex University's School of Dance, whose students often perform in professional theatres

## What lies behind the great arts squeeze?

This year's prospective arts undergraduates seem to have been especially hard hit by government cost-cutting. How did it happen?

The squeeze on arts places, which is causing such difficulties for this year's degree hopefuls, is expected to last for three years. After that, the government is committed to resuming the expansion of higher education.

Universities and colleges have known since last Christmas that they would have to limit recruitment, although the details of their funding council's plans did not emerge until early this year. By then, many had begun to make offers of places on the assumption that their most popular courses would continue to grow.

The decision by John Patten, the education secretary, to reduce the fees for arts and social science courses by a third was a response to public spending constraints. Student numbers had been rising more quickly than anyone had forecast, and ministers wanted to switch funds into the newly-independent further education colleges.

By limiting the fee cut to the arts and social sciences, Mr Patten was putting the brake on the fastest-growing sectors without affecting the government's priority areas in science and technology. He could also claim to be safeguarding standards by imposing a period of consolidation after several years of rapid expansion.

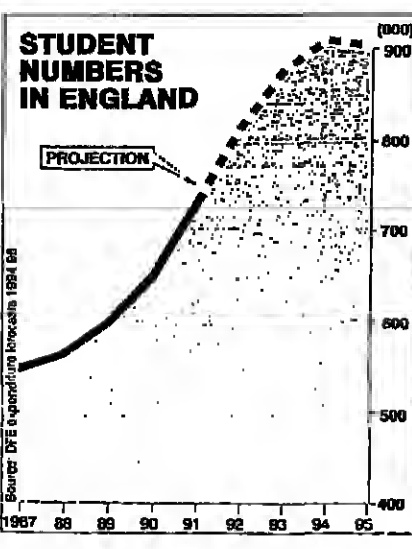
Some of the new universities were feeling the strain of constant increases in student numbers. Although inspectors' reports showed no sign of falling standards of provision, growth of 25 per cent in three years had produced lectures and seminars

of a size never before seen in British higher education. Residential accommodation could not keep pace, and there were protests about overcrowding in libraries and other campus facilities.

Ironically, that expansion had been fuelled by the same mechanism that is now being used to limit recruitment. Lord Joseph had halved the fees in 1982 to stop the polytechnics and colleges of higher education from taking too many students, but government policy changed and John MacGregor doubled them again in 1987 to encourage the universities to take more.

The incentive worked so well that the government's target of one school-leaver in three going on to higher education by the end of the century was already in sight last year. More than 28 per cent of 18 and 19-year-olds were going to universities or colleges, compared with fewer than 15 per cent in 1987. In spite of the freezing of student grants and an annual squeeze on higher education budgets, the open-ended commitment was too much for the Treasury.

The new fees have been pitched at a level which makes it uneconomic for institutions to recruit more new students than they did last year. Universities and colleges will receive £1,300 per student, rather than last year's £1,855.



The higher education funding councils are helping some universities and colleges with expansion plans in the arts through the first year of the freeze, but the limits are being applied all over the country. The admissions bodies report more courses in clearing, but most are in the sciences and engineering.

The standstill comes at a time when the

former polytechnics and colleges were planning further growth of more than 40 per cent over four years.

Student numbers will continue to rise, but only because of growth already built into the system. If the policy remains unchanged, next year may even see some cutting back in the arts and social sciences, as universities and colleges are forced to compensate for overstretching the current targets. The higher fees for science and technology will also provide an incentive switch places into those subjects.

To add to the confusion, the admissions system will change next year, as the former polytechnics' agency merges with the universities'. Applicants will no longer be able to play off the new universities against the old, and the number of offers they can hold will be halved.

Mr Patten has guaranteed that expansion will begin again in 1996, but he has Michael Portillo's spending review to negotiate before he can be certain of that. With 25 per cent more further education students looking for openings by then and more going into school sixth forms each year, the pressure to lift the restrictions may be irresistible.

The decision will be a political hot potato judging by the reaction to the first year of the squeeze. A higher education place has

become a much more widespread expectation, and many of those who will be disappointed this year will come from Conservative households. Opposition spokesmen are already making hay at the government's expense.

Vice-chancellors, who fear that public spending pressures will continue to hold down funding levels, have seized the opportunity to reopen the debate about making graduates pay more towards the cost of their education. The subject is certain to feature in the Portillo review.

Education ministers have always kept their distance from proposals for up-up fees, extra taxes or new loans, on the grounds that they may limit access to the most affluent households. But their opposition has been softening recently. Without committing himself, Tim Boswell, the higher education minister, has expressed interest in the vice-chancellors' funding debate, and he has raised no objections in principle to a university initiative on fees.

The government's plans are for steady growth for the last four years of the century to achieve the 33 per cent participation rate, although the target is likely to be reached more quickly. Once universities and colleges can remove the restrictions on arts and social science courses, it will be hard to control a new growth spurt. It will no consolation to the class of '93, but those further down the school should be able to count on a degree place.

JOHN O'LEARY

UCCA	
<b>ACCOUNTANCY</b>	
Buckingham: NN43 (12), NN43 (12), N41 (12)	
Nottingham: N400 (16)	
Liverpool: N400 (20)	
Salford: NN24, NN44 (16)	
Wales, Aberystwyth: N400 (20), LN14 (20)	
<b>AMERICAN STUDIES</b>	
Salford: C102, C702, G4NC (24), F102 (18)	
<b>ANCIENT HISTORY</b>	
London, Royal Holloway: Q808	
SOAS: Q400 (110)	
St Andrews: V110 (BCC), QV71 (BCC), QV61 (BCC)	
<b>ARCHAEOLOGY</b>	
Edinburgh: V670 (CCC)	
<b>ARCHITECTURE</b>	
Strathclyde: K100 (BBB), K172 (BBB)	
<b>ART</b>	
Wales, Aberystwyth: W150 (16+)	
<b>ASIAN STUDIES</b>	
Leeds: T626 (18)	
SOAS: TS40 (20), TS50 (20), TS20 (20), TS30 (20), TS42 (20), TS55 (20), TS60 (20), TS10 (20), TS25 (20), Q955 (20), TS35 (20), TS05 (20), TS37 (20), TS00 (20)	
<b>BUSINESS STUDIES</b>	
London, UCL: H130 (22), RIN1 (16)	
Salford: N120, L112	
Swansea Inst: N120/N127 (12)	
Ulster: FGN1 (14), N174 (14)	
Wales, Aberystwyth: C7N1 (110), N122 (20)	
<b>CELTIC</b>	
Wales, Aberystwyth: Q500 (118)	
<b>CHINESE</b>	
Leeds: T300 (20)	
<b>CLASSICS</b>	
Kent: Q810 (16), Q820 (16)	
London, UCL: Q800 (16)	
London, Royal Holloway: Q810, Q800	
St Andrews: YQ80 (BCC), Q811 (BCC), Q810 (BCC)	
<b>COMBINED STUDIES</b>	
Liverpool: Y242 (22)	
<b>CREATIVE ARTS</b>	
Wales, Cardiff: PW45 (22)	
<b>DESIGN STUDIES</b>	
Swansea Inst: H770 (6)	
<b>DRAMA</b>	
Kent: RW14 (20), RW15 (20), RW34 (20), RW35 (20)	
London, UCL: R1W4 (20), R1W5 (20), R2W4 (20), R2W5 (20), R4W4 (20), R4W5 (20), R8W4 (20), R8W5 (20), RW14 (20), RW24 (20), RW44 (20), RW45 (20), RW42 (20), RW48 (20), RW44 (20)	
<b>DUTCH</b>	
London, UCL: T222 (12), TR22 (14)	
SOAS: TTM2 (20)	
<b>ECONOMICS</b>	
Buckingham: L100/L112 (12)	
Essex: L100 (20)	
Essex: L100, L112, L142, L141, L137 (12)	
London, Goldsmiths: Y615 (12)	
Liverpool: L100 (20)	
SOAS: L100 (18), L111 (18)	
Salford: L100, L111 (10)	
Strathclyde: GL11 (CDD)	
Ulster: L100 (16)	
Wales, Aberystwyth: L100 (14), LN15 (14), LN14 (14)	
<b>EDUCATION</b>	
Wales, Aberystwyth: YX13 (20)	
<b>ENGLISH</b>	
Buckingham: V1Q3 (8)	
Salford: QV31 (18), Q300 (22)	
Q300	
Wales, St David's: Q306 (16)	
<b>EUROPEAN STUDIES</b>	
Bradford: T202, T200	
Kent: R141 (18), R211 (16), R311 (16), T202 (16)	
London, UCL: RT1F (16), RW4B (20)	
SOAS: T685 (10)	
Salford: T222 (20), F101 (14), F103 (14), F37K/F37L (8), F37L/F37R (8), H672, H681, H372, H272, T272 (20)	
Strathclyde: K172 (BBB), H272 (CCC), H1N1 (CCC)	
<b>FINANCE</b>	
Salford: NN34	
Wales, Aberystwyth: N400 (20)	
<b>FRENCH</b>	
London, Goldsmiths: R100 (12), R112 (10)	
Hull: F1R1 (12), G1R1 (12), R100 (20)	
Kent: R101 (18), R141 (18), R112 (16), R113 (16), RW14 (20), RW15 (20)	
Leicester: R100 (18)	
London, UCL: R101 (18), R106 (16), R114 (16), R115 (16), R1W4 (20), R1W5 (20), RT1F (16), RW14 (20), RW41 (20), Manchester: R811 (12)	
London, Royal Holloway: RR12, R200	
Salford: G5R2 (14)	
Wales, Bangor: R254	
Wales, Aberystwyth: R200 (18)	
Wales, St David's: GR52 (110), R200 (N10)	
<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>	
London, UCL: FS00 (14), FS01 (14), FS04 (14), FS00 (14), FS22 (14)	
London, LSE: L800 (12), L822 (14)	
London, L800 (12), L822 (14)	
Ulster: FS06 (12), FS01 (14), FS00 (14)	
Wales, St David's: L800 (110)	
<b>GERMAN</b>	
Hull: G1R2 (12), R200 (20)	
Kent: R112 (16), R200 (16), R211 (16)	
Leicester: R200 (14), MR12 (14)	
London, UCL: R200 (20), R227 (14)	
<b>GREEK</b>	
Kent: Q700 (16)	
St Andrews: QV71 (BCC), QV78 (BCC), QV80 (BCC), QV79 (BCC), QV77 (BCC), QV76 (BCC)	
<b>HEBREW</b>	
London, UCL: QV98 (BCC), QV79	

London, Queen Mary & Westfield: GR52 (118), R2W4 (20), R2W5 (20), RW24 (20), RW42 (20), R200 (18)	
Manchester: UMIST: N100, N111, N112, R200 (12)	
London, Goldsmiths: R200 (10), R212 (10)	
London, Royal Holloway: RR12, R200	
Salford: G5R2 (14)	
Wales, Bangor: R254	
Wales, Aberystwyth: R200 (18)	
Wales, St David's: GR52 (110), R200 (N10)	
<b>HISTORY</b>	
Buckingham: V130 (8), V107 (34)	
London, Goldsmiths: V100 (12), V101 (12), V102 (12), V103 (12), V104 (12), V105 (12), V106 (12), V107 (12), V108 (12), V109 (12), V110 (12), V111 (12), V112 (12), V113 (12), V114 (12), V115 (12), V116 (12), V117 (12), V118 (12), V119 (12), V120 (12), V121 (12), V122 (12), V123 (12), V124 (12), V125 (12), V126 (12), V127 (12), V128 (12), V129 (12), V130 (12), V131 (12), V132 (12), V133 (12), V134 (12), V135 (12), V136 (12), V137 (12), V138 (12), V139 (12), V140 (12), V141 (12), V142 (12), V143 (12), V144 (12), V145 (12), V146 (12), V147 (12), V148 (12), V149 (12), V150 (12), V151 (12), V152 (12), V153 (12), V154 (12), V155 (12), V156 (12), V157 (12), V158 (12), V159 (12), V160 (12), V161 (12), V162 (12), V163 (12), V164 (12), V165 (12), V166 (12), V167 (12), V168 (12), V169 (12), V170 (12), V171 (12), V172 (12), V173 (12), V174 (12), V175 (12), V176 (12), V177 (12), V178 (12), V179 (12), V180 (12), V181 (12), V182 (12), V183 (12), V184 (12), V185 (12), V186 (12), V187 (12), V188 (12), V189 (12), V190 (12), V191 (12), V192 (12), V193 (12), V194 (12), V195 (12), V196 (12), V197 (12), V198 (12), V199 (12), V200 (12)	
<b>HOTEL AND CATERING</b>	
Buckingham: N120/N127 (12)	
<b>INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS</b>	
Kent: N610	
<b>ITALIAN</b>	
Hull: R300 (20)	
Kent: R311 (16), R312 (16), RW34 (20), RW35 (20)	
Leicester: MR13 (16), RW4K (20)	
London, UCL: RW44 (20), R450 (18), R752 (18)	
London, Royal Holloway: R300	
Manchester: UMIST: R83 (12), RR88 (12)	
<b>JAPANESE STUDIES</b>	
Salford: F37K/F37L (8), G574 (14)	
Ulster: N174 (14)	
<b>JEWISH STUDIES</b>	
London, UCL: V140 (18)	
SOAS: QV65 (110), QV60 (110)	
<b>LANGUAGES</b>	
Leicester: T900 (20)	
SOAS: Q100 (20)	
<b>LATIN</b>	
Kent: Q600 (16)	
London, Royal Holloway: Q600	
St Andrews: QV61 (BCC), QV62 (BCC), QV60 (BCC), QV60 (BCC)	
<b>LAW</b>	
Buckingham: M300 (12), MC39 (12)	
Strathclyde: G5M3 (CCC)	
<b>LINGUISTICS</b>	
London, UCL: G5R2 (118), G5R3 (16)	
LEA: VQ71 (20), VQ72 (20)	
<b>MANAGEMENT STUDIES</b>	
Essex: RR10 (14)	
Kent: MN01 (14)	
Manchester: UMIST: N100, N111, N112	
Ulster: N859 (16), N740 (14)	
<b>MARKETING</b>	
London, LSE: N100 (12)	
Wales, Aberystwyth: LN15 (14)	
<b>MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES</b>	
Manchester: UMIST: T608 (14)	
SOAS: T600 (10), T605 (10)	
<b>MODERN LANGUAGES</b>	
Kent: T202 (18)	
SOAS: T680 (10)	
Salford: T604 (16), T912 (20), T959 (20)	
Strathclyde: G579 (CCC), G179 (CDD)	
Wales, Aberystwyth: T200 (18)	
Wales, St David's: T900 (16)	
<b>MUSIC</b>	
Newcastle: W300 (12)	
Wales, Cardiff: W302 (12), W300 (12)	
<b>PHILOSOPHY</b>	
LEA: VQ71 (20)	

BCC, Q960 (BCC), QV98 (BCC)	
St Andrews: Q960 (118)	
<b>POLITICS</b>	
London, Goldsmiths: Y615 (12)	
Leicester: MR12 (14), MR13 (16)	
Salford: MV11, LM31 (20)	
Wales, Aberystwyth: M150 (20), M152 (20), M153 (20), M164 (20), M168 (20)	
<b>RELIGIOUS STUDIES</b>	
SOAS: V600 (20)	
Wales, Cardiff: V840 (18)	
Wales, St David's: V840 (14)	
<b>RUSSIAN</b>	
Essex: RR10 (14)	
London, UCL: RBW4, RBW5, WR4B (20)	
Salford: F37R/F37V (8)	
Swansea: R800	
Wales, Bangor: (15)	
Manchester: UMIST: R815 (10), R816 (12), R817 (12), R818 (12), R819 (12), R820 (12), R821 (12), R822 (12), R823 (12), R824 (12), R825 (12), R826 (12), R827 (12), R828 (12), R829 (12), R830 (12), R831 (12), R832 (12), R833 (12), R834 (12), R835 (12), R836 (12), R837 (12), R838 (12), R839 (12), R840 (12), R841 (12), R842 (12), R843 (12), R844 (12), R845 (12), R846 (12), R847 (12), R848 (12), R849 (12), R850 (12), R851 (12), R852 (12), R853 (12), R854 (12), R855 (12), R856 (12), R857 (12), R858 (12), R859 (12), R860 (12), R861 (12), R862 (12), R863 (12), R864 (12), R865 (12), R866 (12), R867 (12), R868 (12), R869 (12), R870 (12), R871 (12), R872 (12), R873 (12), R874 (12), R875 (12), R876 (12), R877 (12), R878 (12), R879 (12), R880 (12), R881 (12), R882 (12), R883 (12), R884 (12), R885 (12), R886 (12), R887 (12), R888 (12), R889 (12), R890 (12), R891 (12), R892 (12), R893 (12), R894 (12), R895 (12), R896 (12), R897 (12), R898 (12), R899 (12), R900 (12)	
<b>SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES</b>	
Hull: R700 (16)	
London, UCL: R700 (12)	
Wales, St David's: GR57 (10), R720 (10)	
<b>SOCIAL POLICY</b>	
London, Goldsmiths: L402 (12)	
London, LSE: L430 (20)	
<b>SOCIOLOGY</b>	
London, Goldsmiths: L300 (12)	
London, LSE: L300 (20)	
Salford: L376 (18), L300 (18)	
<b>SPANISH</b>	
Hull: G1R4 (12), R401 (20)	
London, Goldsmiths: R400 (12)	
London, UCL: R4W4, R4W5	
Wales, Aberystwyth: R400 (18)	
Manchester: UMIST: RR84 (12), RR85 (12)	

	<b>POLITICS</b>	
	London, Goldsmiths: V615 (13) Leicester: MK12 (14), MK13 (16) Salford: MV11, LM31 (20) Wales, Aberystwyth: M1 S01201, M152 (20), M154 (20), M164 (20), M168 (20)	
	<b>RELIGIOUS STUDIES</b>	
	NDAS: V800 (20) Wales, Cardiff: V840 (18) Wales, 51 Darnell: V840 (14)	
	<b>RUSSIAN</b>	
	ENG: RR11 (14) London, CU: RW4, RBWK, WR4B (20) Salford: F3R/F3RV (5) Swansea: R800 Wales, Bangor: (15) Wales, Aberystwyth: RB1501	









Casting to a fish under an overhanging bank, a likely lie on a hot summer's day. Knowing where to look and what to look for is central to the search for trout in August

## Breaking the midday blank in high summer

High-summer days when the sun burns down and when white clouds float like disembodied thoughts bring the most testing challenge of the fly fisher's year. Water temperatures are at their highest, and trout are lying deep and most trout are lying deep until dusk.

In August, it can take a great deal of walking, a great deal of careful watching, before the river angler who fishes to target his fish can wet so much as a wellie. Now, as at no other time of year, success in breaking the midday blank rests largely on an ability to read the river — on knowing how to look, where to look and what to look for.

Flukes apart, a general scanning of the water, an occasional defeatist glance to awkward places, will not do. Only intense and prolonged concentration given to the places most likely to hold trout will reap consistent rewards. It will enable one angler to pick out a tiny cubing ring or the subliminal silhouette of a nose, when another angler standing beside him has seen nothing.

The secret, as in most else in angling, lies in understanding the priorities of the fish.

All trout want access to the greatest amount of food; they want

Reading the river is of greater importance at this time of year than at any other. Brian Clarke reports

to expend as little energy as possible in acquiring it, and they need the safety of deep water or a bolt-hole at hand. Where all three come together, trout will be found.

Because there is a pecking order in these affairs, the biggest trout will be found in the place that provides the features it wants in the best balance and the next biggest will be found in the next-best place. If a large fish is caught from a given lie, the next largest will move in and lesser fish in the area will shuttles up. It is the law of the weedy jungle.

The likeliest place to find a fish is one in which the flow of the river is funnelled from a wide area into a thin line or eddy. In such a place, which concentrates the insects on which the trout feeds and that the river carries, a fish can dine as though from a conveyor belt, scarcely needing to move. If there is deep water in this place, and perhaps weed to provide security and trees to provide shade, several fish may be there, including the local corker.

The place where few fish will be found, and those mostly small, is a

wide, straight reach where the water is shallow and where there is nothing to vary or concentrate the flow.

The most likely single location to find a trout, all else being equal, is on the outside of a bend. The banks of a river upstream of a bend naturally channel the main flow towards the outside bank and so it is here the most flies and nymphs are carried. Because the greatest weight of water is directed at the outside bank, there also the deepest water will be found; the constantly pushing and rummaging current gouges away at the bottom and eats into the bank. Concentrated trout plus deep water, to give security, equals fish.

Conversely, the inside of a bend holds little interest unless the bend is gentle and the flow is heavy. By definition, if most water is being pushed into the outside of a bend, less is being carried around the inside. The reduced flow means less water-borne food and increased deposition of silt. More silt means shallower, and sometimes very shall-

low, water. Shallow water and relatively little food equals no fish.

The logic of all this does not stop large numbers of anglers spending much time on the inside of bends and on long, straight reaches of shallow water, complaining the while that they are catching nothing and blaming their luck.

There is one other thing about bends that needs to be borne in mind. The bank on the outside of a bend is often undercut because the water erodes it. Fish will find spots of slow water only inches from the side in such places because irregularities in the bank break up the flow: it is in these spots, hidden from view by the overhang above, that even the largest of fish can be found.

The experienced angler will take time to study such undercuts from a distance, before walking towards them: the trout will blithely move on, scanning idly all about, leaving leviathans unseen at his feet. None of this, of course, is to say that straight stretches of water will not hold fish, even big fish. But trout will only be found in places that meet their needs.

Typically, places where food is concentrated, where the water is deeper and where cover is to hand

are along the river margins where irregularities can be seen; around weed beds and sunken logs; on the upstream lips of waterfalls and hatch pools; and immediately in front of any object, like an old piling post or bridge support or rock, that rises from the river bed.

Almost all of these features are more likely to have fish lying in front of them than behind, contrary to what most anglers look for. All observations have a small area of calm water on their upstream edge, where the current hesitates before being turned aside. Fish can ride these pads of calm water with little expenditure of energy while having a splendid view of all that the current brings and they do.

The places listed here, and the eddying V-ripples that many of them send downstream, are worth the scrutiny of all who walk the river. Concentration on them, even for the non-angler, can sometimes bring an apparently sleeping river to vivid life.

For the angler in August, when the sun is high and when the white clouds float, before the light starts to ebb and the evening rise begins, they can mean the difference between a blank and a rewarding modest bag.

## McGrain undeterred by his former club

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DANNY McGrain, who earned the affection of Celtic's supporters during a 20-year playing career with the club, will be ecstatic if he turns on him tomorrow night.

McGrain, now the manager of Arbroath, the second division club, is aiming to pull off the biggest giant-killing act of this season's league cup competition by beating his former club at Gayfield.

"There is no sentimentality in football," the former Scottish international defender, aged 43, said. "I have a great admiration for the Celtic fans and I hope they have for me — but that goes out of the window tomorrow. I am only interested in Arbroath, and I will be too bad if we win and they are after my blood!"

McGrain, the last Celtic captain to hold aloft the League Cup 11 years ago, added: "It was never my favourite cup and there certainly seems to be a voodoo sign on Celtic. It's hard to believe they haven't won it since 1982. There is a touch of romance about facing Celtic, but given the choice of beating them or getting two points on Saturday, I'd take the points."

Celtic should win with something to spare and Liam Brady, their manager, said: "We've experienced enough to handle it." They are likely to be unchanged for a tie in which the winners face either St Johnstone or Airdrieonians in the quarter-finals.

Airdrie, who knocked Celtic out of the competition two years ago, travel to Perth, relying on the skills of Peter Davenport to help them defeat the premier division side.

The former Nottingham Forest, Manchester United and Middlesbrough striker has scored three goals in his first three league games and another in the league cup win over Cowdenbeath.

St Johnstone are without their Icelandic striker, Gunnar Torfason, who broke his wrist and two bones in his fingers against Dundee United on Saturday. Davie Irons is also out after a recurrence of Achilles tendon trouble.

Henry Smith, the Heart of Midlothian goalkeeper who badly bruised a jaw on Saturday, should be fit to face Falkirk at Tynecastle. But Neil Berry and Peter van de Ven are injured and the new signing, Jim Weir, is cup-tied, opening the door for a return by Graeme Hogg after a four-game ban.

## FOR THE RECORD

### FOOTBALL

WORLD UNDER-17 CHAMPIONSHIPS (in Japan). Group A: Ghana 4, Mexico 1; Group B: Argentina 4, Argentina 0; Group C: Colombia 2, United States 1; Czech Republic 2, Qatar 0; Group D: Chile 2, Tunisia 0; Poland 2, China 0.

FA CUP: Premier division. Tottenham 2, Manchester United 1. Second division. Reading 2, Colchester 0. Third division. Grimsby 2, Lincoln 0.

BRITISH BOWLING LEAGUE: Premier division. Chesterfield 0, Atherstone 0. Northern Premier League: Premier division. Enfield 3, Hyde 2. First division. Luton 2, Wokingham 4. Wokingham 2, Enfield 2.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division. Swindon 3, Dulwich Hamlet 0. Wokingham 0, Atherstone 4. First division. Enfield 2, Wokingham 2. Second division. Wokingham 2, Enfield 2.

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### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Montreal 1, Chicago 0. Colorado 3, Philadelphia 2. St Louis 6, New York 2. San Diego 7, St Louis 5. Los Angeles 6, Pittsburgh 1. Atlanta 5, San Francisco 2.

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### BOWLS

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### HOBBIES

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## Gowshalls maintain momentum to reach semi-finals

By DAVID RHYS JONES

AMY Gowshall, 14, the Grimsby schoolgirl who reached the final of the English Women's Bowling Association national triples championship at Liscard last month, qualified for the semi-finals of the English Bowling Federation pairs with her mother, Christine, at Skegness yesterday.

The Gowshalls, skipped by Amy, gained an impressive 20-15 victory over Gillian Chapman and Theresa Heslop, of Hirst Park, Northumberland. Although Christine described her own play as "tripe", she paid tribute not only to her daughter's skill but to her calmness under pressure. "I tend to be a bit impetuous but she calms me down," she said.

Unlike the English Bowling Association's four-bowl version, federation pairs is a two-bowl game that places greater emphasis on the draw shot and offers little reward to attacking players.

The Park Avenue pair opened up a 9-1 lead but the younger Gowshall's qualities were tested to the full when they were caught at 12-12 after 14 ends.

Another mother and daughter combination, Brenda and Lynne Whitehead, of Poringland Swan, Norfolk, overcame Susan Tollyday and Christine Charlton, of Bramble Lane, Wisbech, 27-8 to move into the quarter-finals.

Mansfield Ladies, the holders of the two-bowl rinks title, survived their opening round against Terrington King William, the 1990 champions, who led 7-4 after six ends before Marion Johns, Madeleine Hutton and Norma Wilson scored eight shots on three ends and went on to win 20-16.

Henk van der Arend, the president of the newly formed Dutch bowling association, was not too dismayed at the humiliating 11-0 defeat suffered by Holland against a strong English team at Worthing this week.

"On the contrary," he said. "We expected it and there are very positive things that have come out of our first taste of international play."

"We have learned about communication and had a lesson on how to play bowls competitively."

There are 7,500 bowlers in Holland, most of them apparently attracted to the game after watching it on British television, whose programmes make popular viewing in most Dutch households.

Holland has applied to become affiliated members of the World Bowls Board and it is expected they will be installed in time to take part in the 1996 world championships in Adelaide.

## Atkinson predicts European glory for slick United

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

RON Atkinson, the Aston Villa manager, is tipping Manchester United to recapture their former glories by winning the European Cup this season.

United were last crowned European champions in 1968, in the days of George Best and Bobby Charlton, but Atkinson is convinced they can repeat the feat with their present side.

United produced a powerful display to beat Villa 2-1 at Villa Park on Monday, Lee Sharpe scoring both their goals. "That was the best United performance I have seen in years," Atkinson said. "They have so much talent and are competitive with it."

"I saw a lot of European football last year and, on the evidence of that, I wouldn't be surprised if they go all the way to the final. They are certainly better equipped than any other team in the European league last season."

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, feels his side is capable of matching the best in Europe but worries whether the high standards required at home and on the continent can be maintained on so many big occasions.







Atherton secure enough to approach Caribbean trip on his own terms

# England revived by regaining winning touch

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

THE British find sporting defeats easy to handle. Scorn is sprayed liberally on all concerned and the resignation of someone in power is loudly demanded. Winning creates a situation in which the common instinct is to demean the achievement by offering excuses for the opposition.

We have been at it again since the Test match win at the Oval on Monday and, on the face of it, with good reason. Australia played without the sustained resolve of earlier games, as if they were demoralised. Unimpaired decisions went against them, for once. And it was, after all, a single victory after four defeats in the five previous matches which had brought down a captain and a chairman and had already had the hounds baying for blood.

No matter. The health of the England cricket team is suddenly ruder for the win and as those who know about such things have been stressing all summer, it really does not take much to change the fortunes of distressed cricketers. Michael Atherton, the captain, and his team manager Keith Fletcher, must feel like free-falling airmen who managed to release their parachutes just before the ground came up to hit them.

Atherton is one of England's two great pluses of the summer (the other being the return of Angus Fraser) and victory at the Oval means he can go to the Caribbean without having constantly to beware of daggers in the back. Already, he has imposed his style on the captaincy and, if he tackles the West Indies as Graham Gooch did four winters ago, the Test matches might conceivably be watched without the need for a hand in front of the eyes.

Unlike Gooch, who took over from David Gower after the 4-0 Ashes defeat of 1989, Atherton will be taking a team that has been at least cursorily re-educated in the art of winning. The self-belief that this can engender is beyond calculation.

Precious though this late prize is, however, it must still be seen in the context of a summer dominated by the

Australians, when England played at times without heart and intelligence and when teams were chosen, and strategies adopted, that did nothing for the credibility of those in charge.

Australia, let it be said, were magnificent. As a batting team, they had everything — blockers and dashers, right and left-handers, plus a tall without a rabbit. But their bowling won them the series — and rarely in the annals of Test cricket did so much depend upon so few.

When Craig McDermott went home after the Lord's Test, the opponent England had most feared was eliminated without a wicket to his name. The tour management refused to summon a replacement and, inspired by such faith in him, Merv Hughes carried a doubled burden

RESULTS

TEST MATCHES: First Test (Old Trafford): Australia won by 179 runs. Second Test (Lord's): Australia won by 22 runs. Third Test (Trent Bridge): Match drawn. Fourth Test (Headingley): Australia won by an innings and 149 runs. Fifth Test (Edgbaston): Australia won by eight wickets. Sixth Test (The Oval): England won by 161 runs.

ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS: First match (Old Trafford): Australia won by 4 runs. Second match (Edgbaston): Australia won by 6 wickets. Third match (Lord's): Australia won by 19 runs.

heroically. He was Allan Border's enforcer, a bowler privately admired by every England player, whatever their darker thoughts about his more villainous side. To some, he may even be the man of the summer.

For most, though, the greatest memories of the series were provided by Shane Warne, not just a leg spinner who may in time prove to be the best there has been, but a trendy, tanned and blond-haired kid to whom the youth of this country, as well as of Australia, can happily relate. He is being imitated everywhere and, such is his talent and his charisma, this is perhaps the best thing that has happened to cricket in years.

Warne is cricketing showbiz but the act is of the highest

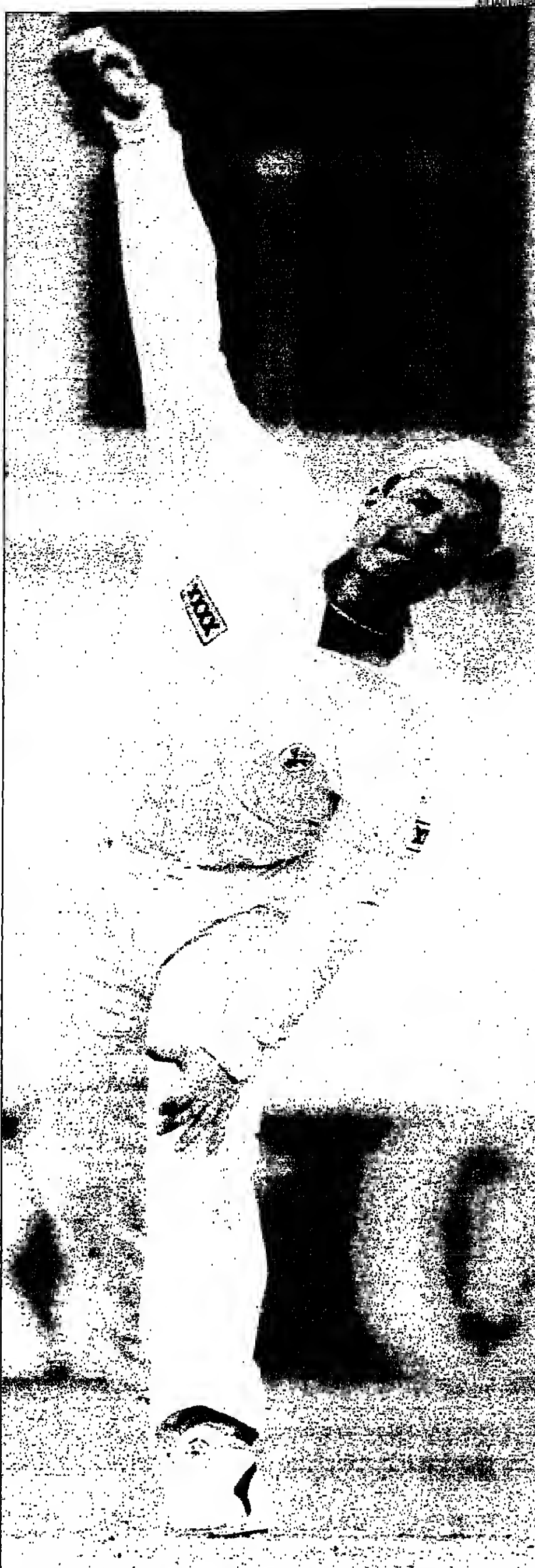
class: any doubt about that was swept away by his first ball of the series, which turned two feet to bowl a bemused Mike Gatting at Old Trafford. His workload was phenomenal, bowling 439.5 overs in the Tests alone, yet he conceded only two runs an over and took 34 wickets at 25.79 apiece. He could bowl to contain, though this was seldom necessary, and his repertoire was wide and skilfully used. Warne is also not just marketable but personable: a genuine star.

Tim May's improved off breaks, used in five of the Tests, and Paul Reiffel's very English style of seam bowling, used in three, were worthy support acts. But it was to Hughes and Warne that Border always turned for his inspiration, even if, in Warne's case, this sometimes involved the psychological game of delaying his entrance against demonstrably wary batsmen.

Only Gooch played Warne with anything approaching comfort and his was the batting performance of the series. Unlike any of the prolific Australians, he was often isolated among lesser mortals. Gooch averaged 56 in a series he will reflect on with confusion.

After only one Test — in which he had made 133 and been out handled the ball — he publicly questioned whether he could motivate players to whom "it doesn't matter enough when things go badly". After two Tests, his resignation became an issue; after four it became inevitable. Yet he ended the summer standing happily at short leg and batting as well as ever under a new captain. There is more to come from him yet.

There will be more, too, from Border, whose leadership is seldom tranquil but always challenging, the character of the man personified. It is possible that he could still be captaining his fine side when England go to Australia late next year. Whether Atherton is leading England can only be conjecture. He, of all people, has discovered this summer how quickly and dramatically one's standing can alter in the game.



Warne, the summer's outstanding player, may become the best of his kind

## Schofield recovers for season's start

LEEDS, rugby league's big spending club, have strengthened their pack, and received the welcome news yesterday that Garry Schofield, the Great Britain captain, has recovered from surgery on an infected ear drum and will start the league championship season at Castleford on Friday (Christopher Irvine writes).

In a late flurry of transfer activity, Leeds signed Neil Harmon, the Warrington prop forward, for £75,000, and sold Carl Gibson, the international centre, for £15,000 to Featherstone Rovers, who have also picked up the Leeds wing, Vince Fawcett, on loan for a month. The independent tribunal has been called in to set a transfer fee for Richard Eyles, the Great Britain second-row forward, after his former club, Widnes, rejected a Leeds offer far below the asking price of £350,000.

Andy Dunnart, the international prop, is about to leave Hull, but whether to Wakefield Trinity or St Helens is not certain. Dean Bell, the Wigan captain, announced on New Zealand television yesterday that he is to leave Central Park at the end of the season after seven years to join Auckland Warriors under John Monie, the former Wigan coach.

## Higgins slides to defeat

SNOOKER: John Higgins, 17, was beaten for the first time in five matches this season when he surprisingly went down in the seventh qualifying round of the Regal Welsh Open at Blackpool yesterday. Higgins, from Witham, near Glasgow, compiled a 98 break on the way to building a 3-2 lead over Terry Murphy, of Northern Ireland, the world No 138. However, Murphy levelled at 3-3, moved 4-3 ahead with a run of 119 and recovered from a 66-0 deficit in the eighth frame to complete a 5-3 victory on the black with a 67 clearance. Karl Burrows, of Holloway, the world No 178, also qualified for the last 128 of the Welsh Open with a 5-4 victory over Karl Payne, from Birmingham, who played in the final stages of the Embassy world championship four months ago.

## Mahanama doubtful

CRICKET: Sri Lanka may be without the opening batsman, Roshan Mahanama, who has an infected toe, for the first Test against South Africa in Morarua today. Mahanama did not bat in the nets yesterday and if he is unfit, Sri Lanka might look outside their squad of 15 for a replacement. Duleep Samarawera is the most likely candidate. The home side is also likely to include three spinners, while South Africa's attack will probably be based on the pace of Allan Donald, Brett Schultz and Brian McMillan, supported either by Pat Symcox, the off spinner, or the left-arm spinner, Clive Elste. It is the first Test between the countries.

## Harris pays for gamble

SQUASH: Del Harris, the former British champion, gambled and lost as he went out in a sudden-death finish in the opening round of the Hong Kong Open yesterday. Harris saved a match point in the fifth and deciding game against the Australian, Adam Schreiber, but scorned the safety-first approach by calling "no-let", giving both players match point. It was a brave move but it rebounded on him when the Australian was awarded a disputed penalty stroke to win the match 15-6, 12-15, 15-12, 9-15, 15-14. Danny Meddings, of Surrey, was the only Briton playing yesterday to reach the second round with a comfortable 15-9, 17-14, 15-8 win over Zubair Jahan Khan, of Pakistan.

## Chilcott to retire

RUGBY UNION: Gareth Chilcott, the Bath and former England prop, is to retire shortly after his 37th birthday in November. Chilcott will stop playing in early December before starting a pantomime season in Southampton. A British Isles representative on the tour of Australia in 1989, Chilcott was capped 14 times by England between 1984 and 1989. He also helped Bath to win 11 trophies in nine years. The England 18-group schools side was overwhelmed in the final match of its tour of New Zealand, losing 52-5 in Dunedin to New Zealand Schools. England's only other defeat in seven matches was by Waikato.

## Fignon stands down

CYCLING: Laurent Fignon, the Frenchman who twice won the Tour de France, yesterday announced his retirement. "I don't see the point of going on," Fignon said before the start of his last race, in Brittany. Fignon was expected to compete in the individual road race at the world championships in Norway on Sunday, but said: "I would have liked to race but I don't feel fit enough to play my part." Fignon, 33, emerged from the shadow of Bernard Hinault to win the Tour de France in 1983 and 1984, but had showed only glimpses of his old form in the past few years. His last important win was in the Giro d'Italia in 1989.

## Lining up for Fun Run

Entries are already flowing in for the sixteenth National Fun Run, jointly supported by The Times and Reebok, on Sunday, September 26. The event is likely to be one of the biggest mass participation events of 1993 and is open to all. There are a total of 30 age categories for men and women over the 2½-mile course in Hyde Park and also, for the first time, there will be a junior jog over a shorter course for children under the age of eight.



dressed envelope (approx 9in x 6in) to Reebok/The Times National Fun Run, PO Box 3460, London SE1 8RZ.

For full details and entry forms, send a stamped ad-

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

OXYRHYNCH

(b) Any crab of the group *Oxyrhyncha*, characterised by a triangular cephalothorax with projecting rostrum; the group includes the spider-crabs.

PISANG

(a) The Malay name of the banana, formerly also un-English use. *Wild Pisang*, the name given to a South African allied plant, *Streitzia augusta*. The Pisang river has its name from the profusion of wild Pisang.

NIDGE

(c) [Of obscure origin] translated to trim (stone) roughly by means of a sharp-pointed hammer. *Gwilt*, Architect, 1842: "In anti the surface has nearly acquired the requisite form. This sort of work is called nidge-work, and the operation nidgeing."

CLERUCH

(c) At Athens, a citizen who received an allotment of land in a foreign country, but retained his rights as a citizen at home.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

White increased the pressure on the black rank with 1 Qg8! when Bh3+ will inevitably follow with fatal consequences. e.g. 1... Rg8 2 Rg8-Qd8 3 Bh3+.

## Facing hot competition in a common market

Andrew Longmore on the uneasy mix of sport and money that is at the heart of cricket's increasing need to make a profit



SINCE the early days of patronage, cricket and money have been uneasy partners. Yet the relationship has rarely been as uncomfortable as it is now in an age of Trivision screens, outfield logos, sponsored shirts, sweaters and T-shirts, official advertising spin-offs, coloured clothing and betting tents. With a turnover of £40 million and some hungry counties to feed, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) is more money-conscious than ever. It has to be.

Even the church is beginning to understand the prevailing mood. At Headingley, alongside the advertisements that warned Australia to "watch out for their bats" and the pictures of Graham Gooch looking disconsolately at an empty can of Telleys, the local Baptist church posted the soul-catching slogan: "God gave JAXXX to the world". At least they picked the right side. But not everyone is so keen to jump on the bandwagon.

Critics complain bitterly that cricket's precious traditions are being hijacked by soulless whizzkids and deposited in the wasteland of accountants' balance sheets. Moreover, they add, the villains of the moment, the Artful Dodgers, the pickpockets of a heritage, can be found within the portals of the TCCB.

Terry Blake is marketing manager of the TCCB, but hardly fits the description of public enemy No 1.

Tall, forthright and open-faced, Blake has been brought up with the game and cares as passionately for it as any of his prosecutors. Surprisingly, he has kept his enthusiasm through a trying summer, in which his top-of-the-range product has dropped to the street value of the government and accusations have piled up at his door. Whatever the criticisms, he says, cricket does need to be marketed.

"There is no divine right for this wonderful game to survive," he said. "If there was, we wouldn't need to do as much. But new sports are being imported the whole time and everyone is looking for their share of the next generation of sportsmen and women."

"We are not just competing with other sports, but against other leisure activities to generate enough revenue to cover the costs of the 18 counties and the international teams."

"Marketing always follows cricket, not vice versa. The changes to the structure of the game this year were made on cricketing, not marketing, grounds. The counties tell us what the product is and we go and market it. There will always be an

older brigade who don't want change at any price, but there's room for tradition and innovation. The changes have to be done reasonably tastefully."

Except, he might have said, on Sundays, when the new 50-over format has led to a confused mix of coloured razzmatazz and proper cricket that has not found favour at the box office. Had marketing ruled the old 40-over format, which had no pretence to be anything but knockabout stuff designed to attract a new audience.



Blake: promoting an image

would surely have remained. Nor has the TCCB sacrificed Test cricket for the instant cash fix of one-day internationals as their counterparts in every other part of the cricketing world have done.

But recent failures have sharpened criticism of the way the TCCB has sold the image of the national team and made too many demands of the players off the field to the detriment of their cricket on it. In India, the team's dress of sponsors' trackuits and T-shirts was cited as an example of slack attitudes, another reason for defeat.

Blake said: "We accept some of the criticisms and will be reviewing the dress code for the winter tour. The image of the team is important off and on the field." England have two main sponsors and three official suppliers. "People tend to feel that the game is being exploited by sponsors. But they pay good money into the game and the money is put to good use." That goes for Telleys and Whittingdale, the high profile sponsors of the England team, and other grassroots sponsors.

But what about all the paraphernalia of the modern Test ground: the 70 perimeter advertising boards at Headingley, the Trivision sightcreens and the outfield logos, both ideas promoted from within the TCCB?

"The Trivision is an experiment."

Blake said: "The replay screen must be a benefit to the spectator. The sponsor's logos on the outfield are purely for the benefit of television. They are white on green, so do not clash with the colours of the game and I don't think people at the grounds notice them unduly."

When time allows, Blake discards his suit and watches a day's cricket from the bleachers, complete with binoculars, radio and refreshment. What does he find? "All the traditions we have been talking about."

But does not the confrontational advertising, coloured clothing, action replays and drink sponsorship simply encourage the "ing-er-fund" culture?

"We certainly have to be careful and responsible," he said. "The fact that the two Test teams are sponsored by beer companies doesn't make people drink more beer on the terraces, nor has coloured clothing brought coachloads of hooligans to Sunday games. We don't encourage confrontation. We do encourage healthy competition and competitive instincts."

Unfortunately, England have shown little of either this summer, which makes Blake's job twice as hard. "When things go well, the issues are not as heralded as they are now. We've had some great Tests over the past two years, but we have been on the wrong end of them. A few victories would make life a little easier."



BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (96941)  
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (4187496)  
9.05 Hangar 13 (CeeFax) (s) (1410941) 9.35 Ipo  
Facts. Does money bring happiness? (1265221)  
10.00 News (CeeFax) Regional news and weather  
(1833458) 10.05 Playdays (s) (3558125) 10.25  
Get Your Own Back. Game show (s) (3534545)  
10.50 TTT Japan (s) (5030922)  
11.00 News (CeeFax) Regional news and weather  
(1833458) 11.10 Knots Landing (s) (9788941)  
11.50 For the Love of It. Rob Pickup used his mother's  
kitchen to brew a beer to test taste (1265221)  
12.00 News (CeeFax) Regional news and weather  
(1255800) 12.05 Pop Goes Summer. Ross King  
talks to the singer and actress Elaine Paige (s)  
(2057832) 12.25 UK Summer Special Olympics.  
Further coverage from Sheffield (s) (3055495) 12.55  
Regional news and weather (71068106)  
1.00 One O'Clock News (CeeFax) Weather (39212)  
1.30 Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (8070532)  
2.15 Hawaii Five-O. Danny James MacArthur is upset  
by a friend's death (s) (4081854)  
3.05 Bazaar. Agony aunt Claire Rayner offers advice on  
treating problem boys and girls (s) (5966670)  
3.35 A Big Country. Australian rodeo boy Tim Kelly's life  
changed when he was called to God (9781651)  
4.10 Children's BBC: The Legend of Prince Valiant.  
Cartoon. (CeeFax) (s) (2727253) 4.35 The Really  
Wild Roadshow (s) (CeeFax) (s) (3542767) 5.00  
Newsround (2831583) 5.10 Byker Grove.  
Children's drama (s) (CeeFax) (3584816)  
5.35 Neighbours (s) (CeeFax) (s) (574632) Northern  
Ireland. Inside Ulster.  
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anne Ford and Andrew  
Harvey. (CeeFax) Weather (788)  
9.30 Regional news magazines (800). Northern  
Ireland: Neighbours (s) (CeeFax) (s)  
9.50 Every Second Counts. Three couples compete  
against the clock. Hosted by Paul Daniels (s) (2922)  
7.00 Doc Martin's Casebook. (CeeFax) (s) See Choice  
(212)  
8.00 Police Rescue: Stakeout. The Australian police  
rescue squad become embroiled in a drugs bust  
when they are called to help free a trapped truck  
driver. Starring Gary Sweet (CeeFax) (861532)  
8.50 Points of View (s) (294125)  
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (CeeFax)  
Weather (7835)  
9.30 Stephanie Cole in Solidering On. The stoical wife  
of a stockbroker reassesses her life in this  
monologue by Alan Bennett (s) (CeeFax) (447308)  
10.05 BBC Proms - Live. From the Albert Hall, London.  
The Concerto in A minor, Op. 24, by Johannes  
Brahms, performed by the BBC Proms Orchestra.  
Monteverdi's Sixth Book. A simultaneous broadcast  
with Radio 3 (s) (1414477)

BBC2

- 7.10 Open University: Education. Time to Learn  
(7958495) 7.35 Measuring the Earth and the Moon  
(3064729) 8.00 Breakfast News (4823361)  
8.15 Ghostwriter (s) (1287477)  
8.40 Arthur Negus Enjoys. A collection of Victorian pot  
lids (s) (4904125)  
9.00 Film: The Strange Affair of Uncle Henry (1945,  
b/w). Engrossing melodrama starring George  
Sanders as the down-trodden brother of Geraldine  
Fitzgerald, whose jealousy threatens to prevent his  
impending marriage to Ella Rains. Directed by  
Robert Siodmak (8582877)  
10.15 Laurel and Hardy Triple Bill: In Saps at Sea  
(1940, b/w) Stan and Ollie embark on a restful sea  
voyage (821816); at 11.15 in Any Old Port (1932,  
b/w) the bumbling duo fight for a lady's honour  
(207800); and at 11.35 in Midnight Patrol (1933,  
b/w) police officers Laurel and Hardy arrest their  
chief on suspicion of burglary (983300)  
11.55 Soviet 1929-1933 (b/w). The revolution's effect on  
the lives of Russian women (9339125)  
12.00 Death of a Farm. Marshall Farm, Devon (s) (93361)  
12.30 A Girl Called Eudora. Eudora, daughter of Ghana  
belongs to an extended family (s) (807554)  
1.20 Forget-Me-Not Farm. Puppet series (s) (8449300)  
1.35 Discovering Birds (s) (1955503)  
2.00 News and weather followed by Holiday Outings.  
London on the cheap (18730274)  
2.10 The Real Food of China. Fish and noodle dishes  
from the People's Republic of China (s) (311630)  
3.00 News and weather (1787090) 3.05 Aussie Jack  
Pizzey looks at friendship (s) (8302774) 3.50 News,  
regional news and weather (1701090)  
4.00 Film: Imitation of Life (1959) starring Lana Turner  
and John Gavin. Moving drama, based on Fannie  
Hurston's novel, about an aspiring actress and her  
black housekeeper struggling to raise their  
daughters. Directed by Douglas Sirk (9029)  
6.00 Star Trek. Captain Kirk (William Shatner) helps a  
beleaguered tribe (s) (CeeFax) (575699)  
6.50 Gunsmoke. Vintage western (731477)  
7.40 Allied to the Mafia. Documentary about the secret  
alliance between the US Navy intelligence and the  
Mafia during the second world war (s) (925516)  
8.30 On the Line: Secrets of the Coach (s). See  
Choice (5019)  
9.00 The Wednesday Play: The Spongers (s). See  
Choice (6106)  
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow. (CeeFax) (290748)  
11.15 Edinburgh Nights. Festival highlights (s) (341106)  
11.55 Weather (854403) 12.00 American History. The  
link between New York's transport network and the  
growth of Harlem (783957)  
12.25 Mantegna: The Triumphs of Caesar. A look at  
Andrea Mantegna's series of nine paintings  
(796084). Ends at 12.55

CHOICE

- The Wednesday Play: The Spongers  
BBC2, 9.00pm  
The season of plays from the 1960s and 1970s goes out  
with a bang as we come to Alan Ayckbourn's absorbing social  
drama, directed by-on-the-wall style by Roland Joffe.  
From the start, the film, played by a single mother  
brilliantly played by Christine Hargreaves, struggles  
to support a family while banding against the social  
security system. It is 1977 and there are some lighter  
moments as the council estate prepares for the Queen's  
silver jubilee: "Hold her up the right way you  
communist", shouts a royalist to helpers man-  
handling a cardboard cut-out of the Queen.  
Increasingly, though, the atmosphere becomes  
deeper. Pauline's Down's syndrome child has been  
moved into an old people's home to save money and  
despite the vociferous efforts of her community worker  
(Bernard Hill), the council will not reverse its decision.  
On the Line: Secrets of the Coach  
BBC2, 8.30pm  
Coaches have always had immense power with which  
to bully and cajole their athletes into fulfilling their  
sporting potential, but this shocking programme  
about sexual abuse shows that such power can be  
misused. One female interviewee confesses that she  
was sexually abused by a coach when she was 14. She  
believes she was taken advantage of because she was  
innocent and vulnerable. "The ultimate sin in  
what society says men should want", Sickingling, a  
former national swimming coach convicted of indecent  
assault tells us: "Coaching legitimates access. You can  
do it because you are doing it with the permission of  
the parents. It is too easy."  
Hani and Annetta hope for a baby (BBC1, 7.30pm)  
Doc Martin's Casebook  
BBC1, 7.30pm  
An emotionally draining episode introduces us to  
a couple making what they feel could be their last  
attempt at in vitro fertilisation (IVF). Annetta is nearly  
40. Her fallopian tubes are blocked and IVF is her only  
chance of becoming pregnant, but this is her sixth  
attempt. The process is time-consuming, expensive,  
but more than this it is mentally agonising. It is in  
the nature of human beings to look for patterns in  
life and we feel that Annetta and her partner Hani  
are hoping that now, just when they are at the end of  
their tether, they will be successful. The programme  
starts with them as they wait to find out.

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 GMTV (4677038)  
9.25 Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers. Cartoon (s)  
(5176941) 9.50 London Today (2983903)  
9.55 Disney's Magic Moments. A magic moment with a  
wealthy woman's estate (s) (1575767) 10.50  
Cartoon (5309293) 10.55 News (6308564)  
11.00 James Bond Jr. Animated adventures (6318941)  
11.25 Wilt, Lose or Draw. Celebrity game show  
(515800) 11.55 London Today (9526651)  
12.00 Cartoon (7394458) 12.10 Allsorts. A day at the  
zoo (s) (2072941)  
12.30 Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Julia  
Somerville. (Teletext) Weather (8836767) 1.05  
London Today (8442569)  
1.15 Home and Away. (Teletext) (955187)  
1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama (s) (954458)  
2.15 Dilly Dally Down. Dilly Brammo explores London's  
Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities (s) (979767)  
2.45 Take the High Road. Highland drama serial  
(515800) 3.15 News headlines (1785494) 3.15  
London Today (1784767)  
3.20 The Young Doctors. Anabel reveals a secret to  
Ben and Robyn (2422903)  
3.50 Children's ITV: Cartoon. Porky Pig (s) (4755019)  
3.55 Scooby Doo (s) (6553632) 4.20 How 2 speak  
Welsh and clean silver with kitchen roll. With Fried  
Dinnerage (s) (2847835) 4.40 Spatz. Children's  
comedy drama series (s) (2422532)  
5.10 Home and Away (s) (CeeFax) (2821496)  
5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchel. (Teletext)  
Weather (171496)  
6.00 London Tonight (23090)  
7.00 Fantastic Facts. Jonathan Ross presents strange  
but true stories from around the world. Tonight,  
Dominic O'Brien demonstrates his amazing  
memory. Tom Noddy blows unbelievable bubbles  
and Stuart Bakwin lays dinosaur eggs. Fiona  
Armstrong discovers the secrets of truffles in Italy and  
Will Lunn presents bizarre medical items (s) (7090)  
7.30 Coronation Street. Rachel and Ken enjoy a tête-à-  
tête in a French restaurant. With Sarah Lancashire  
and William Roache. (Teletext) (380)  
8.00 Pot of Gold. Showbusiness critic Philippa Kennedy  
and audience member Colin Smith are tonight's  
judges in the talent and game show, hosted by Des  
O'Connor (s) (s)  
9.00 Sidney Sheldon's Windmills of the Gods  
Continuing the two-part drama starring Jaclyn  
Smith. Mary's position as American ambassador in  
Bucharest is beset by political intrigue. Concludes  
after the news (s) (Teletext) (3125)  
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald. (Teletext)  
Weather (881) 10.30 London Tonight (60094)  
10.40 Sidney Sheldon's Windmills of the Gods.  
Concluding part (s) (Teletext) (683308)  
11.30 Film: Eminent Domain (1991) starring Donald  
Sutherland and Anne Archer. Complex political  
thriller about a Politburo member in communist  
Poland who suddenly finds himself out of favour  
with the authorities. Directed by John Irvin (22583)  
1.30am Entertainment UK (s) (292791)  
1.30am America's Top Ten (s) (83978)  
3.00 The Little Picture Show. Video reviews (s) (92571)  
4.00 60 Minutes. American news magazine (s) (50423)  
5.00 Evening News. French drama serial (48242)  
5.30 ITN Morning News (33775). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.30 Heathcliff. Cartoon fun with the naughty cat  
(1780922) 8.45 Womser. Doggy tales (1903477)  
7.00 The Big Breakfast. Presented by Chris Evans and  
Gaby Roslin. With Paula Yates (25835)  
9.00 Sealed by the Bell. American high school drama  
series (36403) 9.30 Star Street. Zodiac adventures  
(s) (2642651) 9.55 Kid 'n' Play. Fun with the  
cartoon rappers (s) (12650670)  
10.25 Kelly. Police dog story (2993380) 10.55 The  
Adventures of Tintin. Hergé's hero rockets to the  
moon (s) (7988335)  
11.20 The Henderson Kids. Australian drama series (s)  
(1327699) 11.50 The Bill of Wool. Cartoon about  
a knitted wolf (789492)  
12.00 High 5. Sporting facts (s) (95729) 12.30 Sesame  
Street. With actress Carol Channing (s) (58477)  
1.30 The Herbs. Fun with Parsley the lion and friends (s)  
(17782818) 1.45 Footur. Cartoon (7710699)  
2.00 Film: Driftlight (1931, b/w) starring Jack Holt and  
Ray Whitley. Sentimental adventure story about the  
quest by early aviators to reach the South Pole.  
Directed by Frank Capra (742670)  
3.50 Exercise. Cartoon looking at the evolution of man  
(4743631) 3.55 Our Backyard. A report on a  
couple who are reintroducing a variety of vegetable  
crops to the Devon countryside, and, in Glasgow,  
how young people are returning the land.  
Presented by David Gee (s) (Teletext) (9774125)  
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whitley hosts the words and  
numbers game. (Teletext) (s) (233)  
5.00 Film: The Elusive Pimpernel (1950) starring David  
Newman, Margaret Leighton and Jack Hawkins. Lively  
adventure in which a topless English nobleman  
risks his life to save revolutionaries from the  
guillotine during the French Revolution. Directed by  
Michael Powell (88562)  
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow. (Teletext) Weather  
(526787)  
7.50 Comment. Minam Fyle calls for international  
sanctions against Iraq to be lifted (162767)  
9.00 Brookside. Peter continues his past to Beth. With  
Robert Beck and Anna Friel. (Teletext) (s) (4380)  
9.30 In the Company of Whales. Dr. Roger Payne  
examines evidence that pollution is threatening the  
ability of the whales to exist in the world's oceans (s)  
(Teletext) (s) (59493)  
10.00 The Golden Palace: The Chicken and the Egg.  
Blanche's boyfriend proposes and then suggests  
that she be the mother of his children With Rue  
McClanahan. (Teletext) (s) (96458)



Elle Raine and George Sanders (9.00am)



Hani and Annetta hope for a baby (BBC1, 7.30pm)



Dinner for Lancashire and Roache (7.30pm)



Moray Hunter and Jack Docherty (10.30pm)

VARIATIONS

- ANGELA  
As London except: 9.25-9.50am C.O.P.S.  
(1578411) 1.05pm News (1578411) 1.15  
Country Practice (1578411) 1.45 Home and Away  
(854458) 2.15-2.45 Gardening Time  
(979767) 3.15-3.45 Desperate Housewives  
(979767) 3.55-4.25 The Young Doctors  
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European club competition begins in earnest on September 15, and yesterday three of the four managers preparing to pit their wits against the best on the Continent got a close-up of the trophies they are chasing. Ron Atkinson, the Aston Villa manager, Alex Ferguson, of Manchester United, and George Graham, of Arsenal were in London to launch ITV's planned coverage. "Last year we played 59 matches," George Graham warned. "We are definitely at a disadvantage to our rivals."

## Norwich have much to prove

By Keith Pike

NORWICH City, whose contribution to the championship race last season was so often undervalued and whose chances for the FA Cup Premiership have again been prematurely dismissed by some, can tonight use the platform of an East Anglian derby to strengthen their desire to be taken seriously at last.

The results of the matches against Ipswich Town last season were watersheds in Norwich's unlikely and ultimately unsuccessful challenge. Norwich's 2-0 defeat at Carrow Road in December, their first at home after 12 matches, cut into both their confidence and the eight-point lead they had established.

Then, by winning the return at Portman Road 3-1, Ipswich finally ended their 'neighbourly' title hopes. If Norwich needed an added incentive to redress the balance in front of their own supporters, they have it.

But if recent history is against them — they have not beaten Ipswich for eight years, and in the past six league meetings have scored just one goal to Ipswich's 11 — the news from the treatment rooms is much in their favour.

With John Polston having recovered from a knee injury, Mike Walker can field the side which won so impressively against Leeds United at Elland Road on Saturday. Ipswich, though, are likely to be deprived of the services of Ian Marshall.

Marshall, a £750,000 signing from Oldham Athletic, has scored in each of Ipswich's first three matches, helping his side to maximum points and forming a promising partnership with Kiwomya in attack. A foot injury threatens his place.

Liverpool, having gone to the top of the league for the first time in more than two years on Sunday, can regain the lead from Manchester United with victory over Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield. Graeme Souness will not, after all, have to contend with an enforced team change for the first time this season. Neil Ruddock having recovered from a groin strain in time to play against the club which sold him for £2.5 million in the summer after protracted and

occasionally bitter transfer negotiations.

"It's no secret I wanted to keep Neil here but it wasn't possible in the circumstances," Osvaldo Ardiles, the Tottenham manager, said yesterday. "I wasn't prepared to give him certain things he wanted and maybe the real truth will come out one day."

How much Tottenham must pay Ipswich for Jason Dozzell, meanwhile, looks likely now to be decided by a tribunal. The clubs have been unable to agree a fee for the player Ipswich rate at £2 million. "Although I would prefer to settle the matter between us, I'm not unhappy about it going to a tribunal," Ardiles said.

Everton, the third team to have taken maximum points

so far, face their sternest examination to date when they play Newcastle United at St James Park. Having lost their opening two matches, Newcastle showed considerable enterprise during their 1-1 draw against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Saturday. Everton are again likely to be without Dave Watson, their captain, who has a head injury.

Southampton, without a win in their first three matches, take on fellow strugglers, Swindon Town, at The Dell with the England B wing, Matthew Le Tissier, doubtful after damaging his knee in the 2-1 defeat at Queens Park Rangers on Saturday. If Le Tissier is ruled out, Ian Branfoot, the Southampton manager, may decide to give

youth team player, Neal Bartlett, or reserve team striker, Frankie Bennett, a chance.

Charlton Athletic are to build a 6,000-seat stand as the next stage of redevelopment at The Valley. The single-tier cantilever construction will cost £2 million, and is expected to be completed by Easter Saturday, when they play Southend United in the Endleigh Insurance League first division. It will raise capacity at The Valley to around 14,000.

The Italian league season will kick off 30 minutes late on Sunday as the players' representative body stage a protest over the decision by Bologna and Leghorn, the financially troubled third-division clubs, to release a number of players who were under contract.

## Kenyans demand review of world 10,000m

By Our Sports Staff

KENYAN athletics officials have asked for a review of the men's 10,000 metres at the world championships in Stuttgart on Sunday. They are demanding that the gold medal should be given to Moses Tanui, the runner-up.

Ernest Keitany, the Kenyan team manager, has accused the winner, Haile Gebresilasie, of Ethiopia, of illegally impeding and spiking Tanui, and has claimed that the race jury was biased.

"We have appealed to the International Amateur Athletic Federation," Keitany said yesterday. "We want the result reviewed and the gold given to its rightful winner — Tanui."

Tanui kicked off a damaged shoe going into the final lap of the race when the Ethiopian appeared to tread on him. The Kenyan team protested that Gebresilasie had obstructed Tanui but their appeal was rejected by race officials.

Andre Cason will have his only chance this year to exact 100 metres revenge on Linford Christie at the Brussels grand prix next month. The Belgian event, part of the elite golden four series, has attracted 25 world champions.

Cason, beaten into second place at Stuttgart by Christie despite clocking his best time, will not compete at Friday's Berlin meeting due to commercial commitments in the United States.

The Brussels grand prix will also match Merlene Ottey, of Jamaica, against Gwyn Torrence, of the United States, in another sprint repeat. Ottey beat Torrence in the 200 metres.

Eight athletes are still in line for a 1kg gold bar, which will go to winners of all four individual events at the golden four competitions.

Sally Gunnell and Colin Jackson, of Britain, who both won gold medals and broke world records in Stuttgart, have accepted an invitation to run in next year's Goodwill Games in St Petersburg, Russia.

America's nine athletics gold medal-winners from the Olympic Games in Barcelona are also among the early acceptors. About 2,000 athletes from more than 50 countries are expected to compete at the games from July 23 to August 7.

## Council approves panel of neutral umpires

By Ivo Tennant

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) is likely to set up an independent panel of umpires to officiate in Test matches in every country starting from this autumn. Member countries are expected to support the recommendations of a newly-formed ICC sub-committee that is keen to ensure there are no further allegations of biased decisions.

The ten-man sub-committee, which is chaired by Clyde Walcott and includes Dr Ali Bacher, Sir Colin Cowdrey, Bob Cowper, Sunil Gavaskar and Imran Khan, is intent on having one independent umpire in every Test. The other would be provided by the home board of control.

David Richards, chief executive of the ICC, added that it did not want to deter umpires who could not go abroad in the winter from officiating in their own countries. He is holding talks with National Grid about renewing their sponsorship of umpires which runs out after the series between Sri Lanka and South Africa that begins today in Moratuwa. Brian Aldridge, of New Zealand, is standing in the first Test.

"I think the member countries will give us their backing, but we will need sponsorship," Richards said. "Also, at the moment a visiting side can object to an umpire and obviously that would be ludicrous if he was already 5,000 miles from home."

The sub-committee, which met at Lord's on Monday, felt that the introduction of a third umpire and the use of replays was a worthwhile innovation. It has also recommended that the match referee's role should extend to reporting on the performances of umpires. This, too, is likely to be introduced in time for the series between Pakistan and India and between Australia and New Zealand.

The sub-committee, which was formed in July to debate major issues in the game, felt that the experiment of one bounce over had not been effective and that captains, as opposed to umpires, should still have responsibility for on-field behaviour. Richards, who said the ruling on bouncers "barely survived" the ICC's meeting this summer, is to put these views to member countries for discussion.

## Sledging carries seeds of sport's destruction

By Simon Barnes

THE Ashes summer ended with the unexpected balm of an Australian defeat, and on the same day, at a meeting of the newly-formed cricket committee of the International Cricket Conference. Among the many things they discussed was "player conduct". It would be as unexpected as the England win, and as pleasing, if they were actually able to do something about it.

The Ashes series has been full of wonderful cricket: most particularly the bowling of Warne and Hughes. It has also been full of bitter sledging. Sledging: cricket-speak for aggressive verbal assaults intended to put a player off.

Many of us will remember that wonderfully amiable Ashes summer of 1985, full of handshakes and camaraderie. Certainly Border, the Aus-

tralian captain, has never forgotten it: his side was beaten 3-1. Border was never as friendly again. He has wooed the last three Ashes series 4-0, 3-0 and now 4-1.

Coincidence? Border does not believe so. "It's not fuddy-duddy out there," he says. "Test cricket is played at enormous intensity. Top-level sport is the infinitely intense pursuit of the infinitely trivial."

Sport is a kind of peaceful messing about conducted at warlike intensity. Both aspects are crucial if sport is to keep its public following. We want players to mess about as if their lives depended on it: to make war and make peace simultaneously.

It is a huge contradiction these people are asked to span, but sport depends on it. The question of sledging is an indication of an error in perspective. Sledging pushes the essential contradiction of

sport out of its precarious balance.

Short-pitched bowling is another matter entirely. A batsman who gets hit knows he will have his courage tested again, straightaway, and rightly so. Courage in the face of the hard ball has

been part of cricket since the game began.

Sledging, however, is destructive of sport itself. The Australian response would be to get macho about this, and to talk about heat and kitchens. Certainly, the heat-and-kitchens law is relevant

to fast bowling; but sledging is qualitatively different.

I do not think I am trying to impose an English cultural preference onto a global game. I simply ask for cricket. Sledging is something else. This is the case whether a player wins in the face of it, as Hick — though he did nerve himself up to answering his tormentor in the last Test — or whether, like Atherton, another of Hughes's special targets, he gathers strength and resolution from every school-dinner insult.

The thing is, if you permit unbridled sledging, what next? The batsman must be entitled to answer back. The bowler will then redouble his threats. The batsman must then be permitted to answer with threats of his own. Nose-to-nose finger-wagging must follow. Then pushing and shoving. Then blows. Then what? The batsman

laying about the entire fielding side with his bat? Well, is that quite fair? Perhaps the defenceless close catchers should be armed. And perhaps there is no need to bother with the ball at all: let's have an all-out punch-up instead.

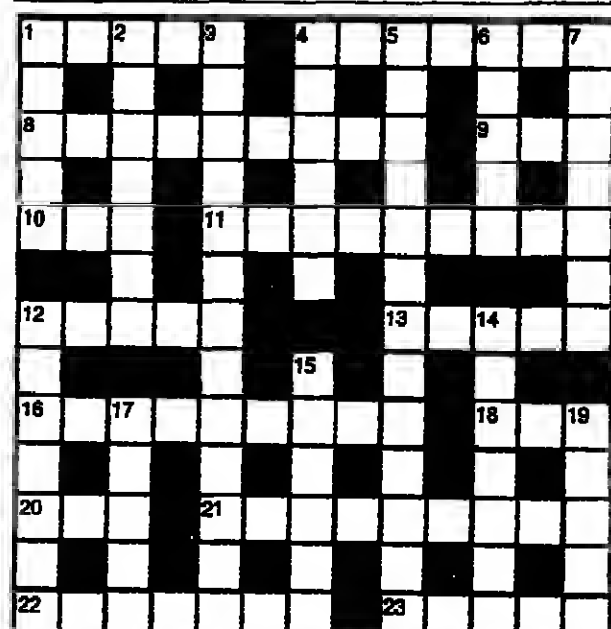
This is all a logical progression from uncontrolled sledging. Sport loses its point and if sport loses its point, it loses its audience. Sledging is not simply another conundrum in a traditionally vexed and controversial game. Sledging is more dangerous to the sport than all the rows about chucking, umpiring, bumpers, walking, appealing and ball-tampering. All these are sporting controversies. But sledging holds the seeds of the destruction of sport itself.

England's outlook, page 38  
Test averages, page 38  
Selling cricket, page 38



Hughes issues an uncompromising verbal blast

### CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3183



- ACROSS
- 1 Auctions (5)
  - 4 Fragrant liquid (7)
  - 8 Worth nothing (9)
  - 9 Curious (3)
  - 10 Coast inlet (3)
  - 11 Artiste (9)
  - 12 Scottish shippers river (5)
  - 13 Multiplication list (5)
  - 16 Rooftop flat (9)
  - 18 Certain winner (3)
  - 20 Vessel front (3)
  - 21 Nickname (9)
  - 22 Expand (7)
  - 23 Praise lavishly (5)
- DOWN
- 1 Cut (5)
  - 2 Sleep song (7)
  - 3 Jumps horse (13)
  - 4 Merry (6)
  - 5 Heirless heir (4,2,3,4)
  - 6 Murk (5)
  - 7 Give approval (7)
  - 12 Competent (7)
  - 14 Feast (7)
  - 15 Lowly (6)
  - 17 Staircase post (5)
  - 19 Flower part (5)

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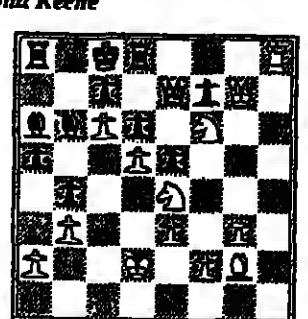
- ACROSS: 1 Pick up 5 Recent 8 Stay 9 Amicable  
10 Breast 12 Yomp 15 Relative value 16 Best 17 Maggot  
19 Shredder 21 Feel 22 Smutty 23 Harems
- DOWN: 2 Interfere 3 Key 4 Plantain 5 Ruin 6 Crazy  
Gang 7 Nil 11 Apartment 13 Mausoleum 14 Besmirch  
18 Idly 20 Ham 21 For

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### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Flear - Martin, Brussels 1992. White has established a pawn chain on d5 and c6 which is cutting Black's position in two. How did he finish matters off?



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### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- OXYRHYNCH  
a. A cattle ranch  
b. A crab  
c. A papyrus palimpsest
- PISANG  
a. The pink Sri Lankan banana  
b. Ripe tea-leaves  
c. Infected blood

- NIDGE  
a. Push  
b. The nape of the neck  
c. Trim
- CLERUCH  
a. Office clerk  
b. To make plain  
c. Greek citizen

Answers on page 38

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